United Nations

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

First to twenty-eighth reports on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 7 (A/57/7 and Add.1–27)

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 7 (A/57/7 and Add.1-27)

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

First to twenty-eighth reports on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

United Nations • New York, 2003

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN-0255-1470

Contents

		Page
Abbreviations		v
Document No.	*Title*	
A/57/7	*First report.* Activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly	1
A/57/7/Add.1	*Second report.* Procurement reform – Outsourcing practices – Proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities of the United Nations	23
A/57/7/Add.2	*Third report.* Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization	25
A/57/7/Add.3	*Fourth report.* Plan to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi – Common services – Trends in extrabudgetary resources at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the impact on its capacity to carry out the programme of work – Delivery of advisory services – Decentralized budgetary and financial arrangements for central services – Cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions	27
A/57/7/Add.4	*Fifth report.* Capital master plan	30
A/57/7/Add.5	*Sixth report.* Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account	46
A/57/7/Add.6	*Seventh report.* United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	50
A/57/7/Add.7	*Eighth report.* Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2003	54
A/57/7/Add.8	*Ninth report.* Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	55
A/57/7/Add.9	*Tenth report.* Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2002	58
A/57/7/Add.10	*Eleventh report.* Experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO in its decision 53/411 B	60
A/57/7/Add.11	*Twelfth report.* Inter-organizational security measures: framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system	61
A/57/7/Add.12	*Thirteenth report.* Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002	63

Document No.	*Title*	*Page*
A/57/7/Add.13	*Fourteenth report.* Strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat	64
A/57/7/Add.14	*Fifteenth report.* Conversion into established posts of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 – Cases in which incumbents of posts are being paid at a level other than the one provided for the post – Presentation of estimates of staff assessment – Additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations – Comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat – Interim report on results-based budgeting for the biennium 2002–2003	66
A/57/7/Add.15	*Sixteenth report.* United Nations Institute for Training and Research	69
A/57/7/Add.16	*Seventeenth report.* First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003	71
A/57/7/Add.17	*Eighteenth report.* Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized	82
A/57/7/Add.18	*Nineteenth report.* Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1	96
A/57/7/Add.19	*Twentieth report.* Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.7	98
A/57/7/Add.20	*Twenty-first report.* The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20	100
A/57/7/Add.21	*Twenty-second report.* United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1	101
A/57/7/Add.22	*Twenty-third report.* Khmer Rouge trials – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.70	104
A/57/7/Add.23	*Twenty-fourth report.* The situation of human rights in Myanmar – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48	105
A/57/7/Add.24	*Twenty-fifth report.* Ensuring effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development – Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62	106
A/57/7/Add.25	*Twenty-sixth report.* Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme	108
A/57/7/Add.26	*Twenty-seventh report.* Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	112
A/57/7/Add.27	*Twenty-eighth report.* Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	113
Annex	Reports presented orally by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at meetings of the Fifth Committee during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly	115

Abbreviations

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
MINUGUA	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDC	United Nations Development Corporation
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFIP	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITA	União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMA	United Nations Mission in Angola
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNOB	United Nations Office in Burundi
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNSMA	United Nations Special Mission in Afghanistan
UNU	United Nations University
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Document A/57/7

First report

Activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

[18 October 2002]
[Original: English]

I. Introduction

1. The major functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 14 (I), section A, of 13 February 1946, are:

(*a*) To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly;

(*b*) To advise the Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it;

(*c*) To examine on behalf of the Assembly the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies;

(*d*) To consider and report to the Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

2. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 14 (I), examination of the budget by the Advisory Committee includes not only the regular assessed budget but also extrabudgetary expenditures, as well as the financing of the various peacekeeping operations, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia[1] and the International Tribunal for Rwanda.[2] Pursuant to rule 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it under the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. In addition, with regard to programmes financed by voluntary funds, the Committee reports on administrative budgets and other matters to the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (voluntary funds), the United Nations Environment Programme (Environment Fund), the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the World Food Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

3. Under rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.

4. During the reporting period, the members of the Advisory Committee were:

Mr. C. S. M. Mselle (Chairman), Mr. E. Besley Maycock (Vice-Chairman), Ms. Norma Goicochea Estenoz, Mr. Gérard Biraud, Ms. Nazareth A. Incera, Mr. Rajat Saha, Mr. Nicholas A. Thorne, Mr. Vladimir V. Kuznetsov, Ms. Susan McLurg, Mr. Roger Tchoungui, Mr. Juichi Takahara, Mr. Andrzej T. Abraszewski, Mr. Manlan Narcisse Ahounou, Mr. Felipe Mabilangan, Mr. Michiel W. H. Crom, Ms. Sun Minqin.

5. During the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Advisory Committee were organized into three sessions, held in New York: from 4 September to 21 December 2001; from 5 February to 5 April 2002; and from 7 to 24 May 2002. The Committee also met in Geneva from 27 to 30 May, in The Hague on 3 and 4 June, in Arusha,

Tanzania, on 6 and 7 June, in Asmara on 9 and 10 June, in Assab, Eritrea, on 11 June, in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 June, in Nairobi on 17 and 18 June and in Paris on 21 June 2002. The present report presents general observations and relates in factual terms the matters that were before the Committee at the various locations away from Headquarters (see annex I to the present report).

6. Under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 on peacekeeping operations and 52/223 of 22 December 1997 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, in accordance with existing procedures, the Advisory Committee replied to various requests of the Secretary-General by letter during the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly. In most cases, the Committee authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments to undertake various peacekeeping operations. A list of the Committee's letters to the Secretary-General is contained in annex II to the present report.

II. General observations

7. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee reached during the meetings it held in New York are contained in the reports it submits to the General Assembly and other legislative bodies (see annex II to the present report). The detailed comments and recommendations of the Committee on the meetings it held away from Headquarters will be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions in the context of the specific reports the Committee will be issuing on related matters, including proposals of the Secretary-General relating to the regular budget of the United Nations, peacekeeping operations and the International Tribunals. In the present report, the Committee therefore confines itself to general observations.

8. In the course of its meetings held away from Headquarters, the Advisory Committee sought information on the effects of across-the-board budget cuts on the activities of the entities it visited. In many instances, the Committee was informed that budget cuts had necessitated a halt or paring down of planned improvements and innovations in the area of information technology. The Committee expresses its concern that delays in the implementation of these activities could have a negative impact on efforts to improve efficiency and, in the longer term, to achieve savings.

9. The Advisory Committee once again stresses the desirability of coordination among the specialized agencies in such areas as security, printing and procurement. The Committee notes and welcomes the establishment of the Management Ownership Committee, which is composed of the executive heads of Geneva-based organizations, and the Common Services Task Force in Geneva. It also acknowledges the work done under the auspices of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to establish cost-sharing arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator. However, the Committee found little evidence of coordination among the agencies in the area of security in Geneva proper, nor does there seem to be much coordination in printing services. It welcomes, however, the information provided to it that the United Nations Office at Geneva coordinates a common purchasing service for information technology supplies and services, which is open to all agencies. In Nairobi, joint arrangements are in place for, among other things, security, medical, information technology, printing and legal services, with the United Nations Office at Nairobi providing the bulk of such services to the agencies in Nairobi. Furthermore, the Committee notes the establishment of the Inter-Agency Administrative Coordination Committee, which provides a mechanism for feedback and consultation between the Office and client agencies in Nairobi.

10. The Advisory Committee notes that building projects are planned or are in progress for the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The Committee cautions against undertaking costly long-term construction projects, which, when completed, may not accommodate all staff. Growth patterns in staffing should be taken into account and the possibility of subletting space that is in excess of current needs should be explored when planning such projects.

11. Delegation of authority and the granting of increased flexibility to programme managers continue to be issues of concern throughout the system. The Advisory Committee notes, for example, that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed concern regarding the fact that, as an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat, it does not have delegated financial authority and therefore all requests for allotments must be channelled through the United Nations Office at Geneva, at times causing delays in funding that are perceived as diminishing the operational effectiveness of the Office. The Committee maintains the view that the key to effective delegation is a concomitant reinforcement of accountability.

12. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) believes that there is lack of transparency in the allocation and use by the United Nations Office at Geneva of resources that have been approved for administration and conference and general services at ECE. The issuance of allotments to the United Nations Office at Geneva and budgetary control are carried out directly by United Nations Headquarters against approved ECE resources. According to ECE, the current working arrangements with the United Nations Office at Geneva do not provide incentives to programme managers at the Commission to achieve savings under those objects of expenditure. ECE would prefer to obtain services directly on a competitive basis from various potential service providers, including the United Nations Office at Geneva.

13. The Advisory Committee notes with interest the steps taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in its development of a table of financial authority for its headquarters and its plans to develop a similar table for the field.

14. The Advisory Committee has noted that the International Tribunals are experiencing a number of human resources problems. Among these have been the lengthy periods required for the advertisement of vacancy announcements and the consequent delays in recruitment. In the opinion of the Committee, greater flexibility for entities with limited mandates should help to address that problem. The Committee was informed that the new staff selection system[3] would provide some flexibility in that regard. The Committee intends to follow up on this issue when it considers the budgets of the Tribunals and the peacekeeping operations. The Committee also notes with concern the increasing trend of transferring experienced staff from established field missions to start-up missions, leaving a void of expertise in the established missions.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that the International Tribunal for Rwanda has opted not to apply, for the time being, some aspects of the new human resources policies adopted by the General Assembly that would permit personnel recruited by the Tribunal after May 2002 to apply as internal candidates for vacancies in the system. It is the view of the Tribunal that problems could ensue as a result of the different treatment of staff hired prior to May 2002.

Notes

[1] International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

[2] International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

[3] See ST/AI/2002/4.

Annex I

Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Meetings held in New York

1. During its sessions in New York, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered a number of reports related to the United Nations regular budget, United Nations peacekeeping operations and other administrative and budgetary matters of the United Nations and its funds and programmes. In the course of its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and of the executive heads of funds and programmes. The reports of the Committee are listed in annex II to the present report.

II. Meetings held away from Headquarters

A. United Nations Office at Geneva and programmes and agencies in Geneva

2. The Advisory Committee's discussions with representatives of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 27 May 2002 focused on central support services and other operations of the Office, including matters related to security initiatives implemented in 2002, cooperation in common services (e.g., travel services, electricity rates, information technology and cleaning services), office space and facility management. The Committee was also briefed on the status of budget implementation, in particular on the impact of General Assembly resolutions 56/254 A to C of 24 December 2001; on electronic services and matters related to the Integrated Management Information System; on human resources management issues, such as recruitment time, administration of justice, the staff selection system and monitoring mechanisms; and on conference servicing issues, such as technological innovations, précis writing and the scarcity of qualified language staff.

3. On 28 May 2002, a joint meeting was held with representatives of the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Discussions centred on inter-agency cooperation in Geneva in such areas as security, printing, procurement, building construction, management, maintenance, Joint Inspection Unit management studies and the functioning of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

4. On 29 May 2002, the Advisory Committee met with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and other representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Committee was briefed on action taken to implement a number of its recommendations on issues such as the management of extrabudgetary posts, projections of extrabudgetary resources and the consistency with the medium-term plan of activities funded from extrabudgetary resources in the light of the increase in contributions to human rights activities from extrabudgetary sources; the system of rapporteurs and the attendant publication workload; and the development of indicators of achievement of expected accomplishments. The following issues were also discussed: the working arrangements of the Office with the Department of Management and the United Nations Office at Geneva, in particular the fact that the Office, as part of the United Nations Secretariat, does not have delegated financial authority; measures taken by the Office to regularize situations where permanent functions are being carried out using general temporary assistance funds; progress with regard to the proposal by the Secretary-General to rationalize human rights bodies; and the impact of cuts in the regular budget for 2002–2003 relating to the work of the Office.

5. On 29 May 2002, the Advisory Committee exchanged views with the Inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit on matters of mutual interest and discussed the programme of work of the Unit.

6. The Advisory Committee met with the Executive Secretary and other representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on 30 May 2002. The Committee was informed that the social sector would be strengthened in the work programme of the Commission, with priority areas of work to include ageing and gender, while areas such as transport, trade and, to a certain extent, environmental matters would be de-emphasized. The representatives of ECE discussed the Commission's current working arrangements with the United Nations Office at Geneva and the allocation and use by the Office of resources that have been approved for ECE for administration and conference and general services, as well as the need of the Commission for more flexibility in the implementation of its budget, in particular in the use of resources budgeted for posts. The representatives of ECE reported that budget cuts for the biennium 2002–2003 had negatively affected the programme of work of the Commission in a number of areas, most notably information technology, communications, the translation and production of publications, travel and the maintenance of statistical databases. Finally, the Committee was informed that further progress had been made in refining expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 to be able to link outputs more closely with the objectives set out in the medium-term plan.

7. The Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 30 May 2002. The Committee was briefed on a number of issues, including the UNHCR operations in Afghanistan and Eritrea. UNHCR has overall coordinating responsibility in respect of the provision of assistance to internally displaced persons in Afghanistan. Among other factors affecting the work of UNHCR in Afghanistan is the funding of shortfalls facing key assistance partners. With regard to the voluntary repatriation of Eritreans from the Sudan, the Committee was informed that a total of 47,000 people had been assisted to return home out of a targeted 160,000 for the period from May 2001 to December 2002. On the issue of programme funding, UNHCR projects an income shortfall of $98.7 million. For 2003, given the special situation of the Afghanistan operation, UNHCR plans to set up the requirements of the operation outside the annual programme budget. The Committee was also briefed on air operations and on measures taken to improve the management of security and to enhance the safety of both staff and refugees in field operations.

B. International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, International Tribunal for Rwanda and International Court of Justice

8. The briefings in The Hague on the operations of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on 3 June 2002 included presentations by the President of the Tribunal, the Prosecutor and the Deputy Prosecutor, the Registrar and other senior staff of the Tribunal. The Tribunal's completion strategy and the related issues of judicial reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and criteria and procedures for the future referral of cases to national courts were discussed in some detail. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Office of the Prosecutor had 25 remaining investigations to complete by the end of 2003, which could result in 30 new indictments involving approximately 100 accused. It is envisioned that by the end of 2004, cases involving 50 of those 100 accused might be remitted to national courts. What role the Tribunal would play in the local courts was, as yet, unclear; the procedures were being discussed. The Kosovo model, using international judges, was one option. The Committee was informed that six trials were being conducted concurrently in the Tribunal. The need for 2 additional preparatory teams, for a total of 12, was discussed. The goal was to have six trials fully prepared so that when the current trials were completed, six new ones could begin immediately. The Committee was also informed of the planned establishment of a bar association and amendment of the code of professional conduct to include a disciplinary regime and provisions on fee-splitting and conflict of interest. The vast amount of documentation that must be translated and prospective solutions to the delays, which this requirement has contributed to, were among the other issues discussed.

9. On 4 June 2002, the Advisory Committee exchanged views with the Prosecutor for the International Tribunal for Rwanda, who is based in The Hague and who also serves concurrently as the Prosecutor for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Discussions centred on

the difficulties being encountered in securing the cooperation of Governments in tracking and apprehending suspects and obtaining documentation; the full docket of the three trial chambers and the use of joint trials and a "twin-tracking" system, whereby each trial chamber is adjudicating two trials in rotation; the need for ad litem judges; and the large number of vacant posts in the Tribunal.

10. On 4 June 2002, the Advisory Committee also met with members of the International Court of Justice and its Registrar at the Peace Palace in The Hague and discussed various issues of concern to the Committee and the Court. As regards the workload of the Court, the Committee was informed that 24 cases were currently pending; however, it was difficult to forecast workload, as the Court had no control over the number and timing of new proceedings. New cases are brought before the Court by Member States and advisory opinions are requested by the United Nations and its specialized agencies without prior notice to the Court. Conversely, the parties can withdraw cases at any moment. The Committee was informed that the Court was taking steps to improve its working methods, in particular through the introduction of information technologies. The representatives of the Court reported that its web site continued to be very successful (some 225,000 copies of its judgements are downloaded and some 140,000 persons use the web site yearly); however, budget cuts approved by the General Assembly for the biennium 2002–2003 had affected the provision of services by the Registry in several administrative support areas, including information technology, communications, travel, contractual services and equipment.

C. International Tribunal for Rwanda

11. On 6 and 7 June 2002, the Advisory Committee met in Arusha, Tanzania, with the President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda and other judges, the Registrar and senior staff of the Office of the Prosecutor (see also para. 9 above) and other representatives of the Tribunal. On 7 June, the Committee also visited the United Nations Detention Facility in Arusha. On the subject of courtroom scheduling and the workload of the chambers, the Committee was informed that there were nine trials in progress, three in each of the chambers. The judges reported that a great deal of time was spent hearing motions and cited the need to act preventively to avoid excessive motions. Weekly meetings with the parties had been instituted for this purpose and had proven effective. The concept of twin-tracking, which the Committee had expressed concern about previously, [4] was also discussed.

12. On personnel matters, the Advisory Committee was briefed on measures being taken to address the continuing high vacancy rate in the Tribunal. Among other things, the representatives of the Tribunal stressed the urgent need for revisers in the Tribunal and highlighted the difficulties encountered in attracting language staff because of the low post levels offered to them at the Tribunal compared with elsewhere in the system. Other issues discussed included the legal aid system, the enforcement of sentences, the question of witnesses who are brought to the Tribunal but do not testify and the related expenses, and court management.

D. United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

13. On 9 and 10 June 2002, the Advisory Committee met in Asmara with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his senior staff and was briefed on the operations of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), as well as on progress made in the peace process. The Chief Administrative Officer and his senior colleagues briefed the Committee on the main administrative, personnel, budgetary, logistical and general service issues, including recruitment efforts to fill vacancies and the high turnover rate for international staff in UNMEE, as well as on the UNMEE civilian medical support system. On 9 June, the Committee also met at the United Nations Development Programme compound with the United Nations organizations in Asmara and visited the Mine Action Coordination Centre. The Committee was informed that more than 180,000 internally displaced persons and more than 30,000 refugees had been assisted by the international community to return to their areas of origin. However, a large number of internally displaced persons were unable to return to their homes because of minefields and unexploded ordnance. Agencies and humanitarian programmes continued to assist in

reconstruction activities, and quick-impact projects were an important element of this assistance. The Committee was informed that some $700,000 had been approved for 64 such projects. On 10 June, the Committee visited the integrated warehouses and the water purification and bottling plants.

14. On 11 June 2002, the Advisory Committee visited the Sector East headquarters of UNMEE and the Slovak engineering/demining company in Assab. The Committee also visited the Kenyan battalion at point 60, where it was briefed on the new accommodation arrangements provided by the United Nations.

15. On 12 June 2002, the Advisory Committee was briefed by UNMEE senior staff members in Addis Ababa on human rights and the military and administrative components of the Mission in Addis Ababa and toured the new premises. UNMEE was formerly housed in containers located on the premises of the Economic Commission for Africa.

E. Economic Commission for Africa

16. On 12 and 13 June 2002, the Advisory Committee met in Addis Ababa with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and his senior programme managers. A number of issues were discussed, including the role and effectiveness of the subregional development centres and potential duplication in the work of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in the region and the centres; the Commission's information technology modernization project; progress in the development of the web site; efforts to reduce the number of publications issued by the Commission; steps taken to reduce the ratio of General Service to Professional staff and to lower the vacancy rates for Professional staff; and management of the United Nations Conference Centre.

F. United Nations Office at Nairobi, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Human Settlements Programme

17. At its meetings on 17 June 2002 with representatives of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the Advisory Committee was briefed on the challenges of Nairobi as a duty station, the integrated budget of the Division of Administrative Services, the United Nations common services project in Kenya and security and conference servicing issues. The Committee was informed that a common services project had been launched in 2000–2001, which included joint arrangements for, among other things, security, medical, information technology and legal services. At present, the United Nations Office at Nairobi provided most services to the other agencies in Nairobi. The Inter-Agency Administrative Coordination Committee provides a forum for discussion between the Office and its clients.

18. In response to its enquiry concerning the effects of budget cuts on the Office, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as outsourced contacts had to be paid, budget cuts, of necessity, were made in virtually every other area. Information technology was an area that had been particularly affected. The Committee was briefed on the proposal to construct additional office space to be financed through a loan from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The aim was to establish a United Nations house to accommodate all United Nations personnel in the same compound. At present, 1,600 staff are in the United Nations complex and 600 are elsewhere in Nairobi.

19. On the issue of cooperation in conference services, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Nairobi had an agreement, which would be formalized shortly, to assist the Economic Commission for Africa with conference services when needed. In addition, the Office was actively cooperating with conference services in the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and both the Commission and the Tribunal used the printing services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

20. On human resources issues, the Advisory Committee was informed that the average time required to recruit staff for the United Nations Office at Nairobi was six months and that the Office had managed to achieve a relatively low vacancy rate through temporary recruitment.

21. On 18 June 2002, the Advisory Committee met with the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP and other UNEP officials. The Committee was briefed on the activities and programme of work of UNEP, including preparations for its participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002). The composition and role of the UNEP governing bodies and the organizational structure of the UNEP secretariat and outposted offices were also discussed in some detail. The Committee was informed of a revised financial framework for UNEP for the biennium 2002–2003 as at 15 June 2002 showing projected income under the Environment Fund to be significantly lower than originally estimated in the budget proposal.

22. Also on 18 June, a team of senior managers of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) provided the Advisory Committee with an overview of the mission and objectives of the Programme and discussed its strengthened mandate and new status, as a result of the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, as a programme of the United Nations. The Committee was briefed on the activities of UN-Habitat in such areas as post-conflict reconstruction, sustainable urbanization, secure tenure and urban governance. The proposed revised medium-term plan for UN-Habitat, the role of its governing body, the funding mechanisms and instruments of information-sharing with Governments and partners were also discussed.

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

23. The Advisory Committee met with representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 21 June 2002 at its headquarters in Paris. Discussions focused on the status of implementation of results-based management; evaluation mechanisms, oversight and accountability; personnel policy reform; and implementation of the new finance and budget system. The Committee was informed that a college of Assistant Directors-General had been established by the Director-General as an informal policy-debating body to review, every six months, the implementation of programmes focusing on the use of resources and the need for eventual reallocation, as well as the attainment of expected results. The Committee was also informed that efforts towards greater delegation of authority were under way; a table of financial authority had been completed for UNESCO headquarters, and a similar table was planned for the field offices. On the subject of the finance and budget system, it was reported that the system was an adaptation of a commercially available software package that would be used to manage all financial and material resources needed for programme delivery and to record all transactions and bring them to account. There would also in future be a component for the management of human resources and payroll. The Committee was briefed on human resources reform in UNESCO and the restructuring of the secretariat at headquarters, including the reduction of posts at the D-1 level and above.

Notes

[a] See A/56/666.

Annex II

Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions submitted during the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly

Fall session 2000
(New York, 5 September–22 December)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/55/376	Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects (12 September 2000)
A/55/430	Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States; improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi; remote interpretation (28 September 2000)
A/55/458	Procurement reform and measures taken to improve procurement activities in the field (6 October 2000)
A/55/479	Outsourcing practices (13 October 2000)
A/55/481	United Nations pension system (13 October 2000)
A/55/487	Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors (16 October 2000)
A/55/499	Human resources management reform, accountability and responsibility, personnel practices and policies and management irregularities (19 October 2000)
A/55/514	Administration of justice in the United Nations (23 October 2000)
A/55/516	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (24 October 2000)
A/55/531	Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (30 October 2000)
A/55/543	Results-based budgeting (3 November 2000)
A/55/624	Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (13 November 2000)
A/55/642	Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991: proposed requirements for 2001 (22 November 2000)
A/55/643	Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (22 November 2000)
A/55/658	Safety and security of United Nations personnel (1 December 2000)
A/55/674	The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42 (8 December 2000)

A/55/676	Implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (8 December 2000)
A/55/677	The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 (8 December 2000)
A/55/680	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1 (12 December 2000)
A/55/685 and Corr.1	Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002–2003 (13 December 2000)
A/55/688	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (13 December 2000)

Reports on the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001[a]

A/55/7	First report: activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (14 November 2000)
A/55/7/Add.1	Review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations; facilities management; Overseas Properties Management and Information Exchange Network; common services; internal and external printing practices; and proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities (22 November 2000)
A/55/7/Add.2	Revised estimates under section 7, International Court of Justice, section 32; Staff assessment; and income section 1, Income from staff assessment (28 November 2000)
A/55/7/Add.3	Review of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (8 December 2000)
A/55/7/Add.4	Capital master plan (11 December 2000)
A/55/7/Add.5 and Corr.1	First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (12 December 2000)
A/55/7/Add.6	Revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (14 December 2000)
A/55/7Add.7	Construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa (26 December 2000)
A/55/7Add.8	Integrated Management Information System project (11 January 2001)

Other reports

DP/2000/38	Revised budget estimates for the biennium 2000–2001 and responsibility of the United Nations Office for Project Services in personnel matters (18 September 2000)
A/AC.96/932/Add.1	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: annual programme budget for 2001 (25 September 2000)
WFP/EB.3/2000/4 (A, B, D)/2	Report on budgetary performance for 1998–1999, audited biennial accounts for 1998–1999 and strengthening the management capacity of the World Food Programme (13 October 2000)

HS/C/18/9/Add.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2002–2003 (22 December 2000)
UNEP/GC.21/6/Add.1	Proposed biennial programme and support budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2002–2003 (7 December 2000)
AC/1440	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: draft work programme and proposed budget for 2001 (30 November 2000)
E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.4	United Nations Children's Fund: establishment of an operational reserve (26 December 2000)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1432	Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (12 September 2000)
AC/1433	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (8 September 2000)
AC/1437	Reappointment to the United Nations Investments Committee (11 October 2000)
AC/1442	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: estimates for administrative costs for the year 2001 (29 December 2000)

Oral statements and reports[b, a]

Pattern of conferences: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.83

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2001

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva

Programme budget implications: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000

Programme budget implications: human rights in Palestine

	Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Winter session 2001
(New York, 6 February–30 March)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/55/688/Add.1	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (2 March 2001)
A/55/806	Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (23 February 2001)
A/55/828	Experiences learned from the use of resident auditors at peacekeeping missions (12 March 2001)
A/55/829	Procurement-related arbitration (9 March 2001)
A/55/836	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (13 March 2001)
A/55/839	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (16 March 2001)
A/55/869	Financial performance report of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (4 April 2001)
A/55/870	Final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (2 April 2001)
A/55/874	Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (6 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.1	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (4 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.2	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (5 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.3	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (3 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.4	Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (5 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.5	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.6	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to

	30 June 2002 of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (4 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.7	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and budget for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (4 April 2001)
A/55/874/Add.8	Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (3 April 2001)
A/55/878	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (5 April 2001)
A/55/879	Financial performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (3 April 2001)
A/55/880	Financial performance report of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (3 April 2001)
A/55/881	Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (3 April 2001)
A/55/882	Financial performance report of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000; and budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (3 April 2001)
A/55/883	Death and disability benefits (3 April 2001)
A/55/884	Financial performance report of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (3 April 2001)
A/55/885	Financial performance report of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (4 April 2001)
A/55/886	Financial performance report of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (4 April 2001)
A/55/887	Reform of the procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (4 April 2001)

Programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001[a]

A/55/7/Add.9	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (13 March 2001)

Other reports

AC/1443	United Nations Institute for Training and Research: programme budget for 2001 (16 February 2001)
E/CN.7/2001/10 and Corr.1	Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: proposed revised biennial support and programme budget for 2000–2001 and proposed outline for 2002–2003 (7 March 2001)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1444	Angola: implementation of the mandate of the monitoring mechanism for a period of three months (19 February 2001)
AC/1448	Request for submission of information on the status of arbitration claims at the beginning of February and September of each year (9 March 2001)
AC/1449	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: observations and recommendations on the presentation of the budget estimates (13 March 2001)
AC/1450	Financing of the Office of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General for the Balkans (2 April 2001)
AC/1451	Financing of the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon (2 April 2001)
AC/1452	Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (2 April 2001)
AC/1453	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: additional commitments (23 April 2001)

Other letters

AC/1445	Chairman, Board of Auditors: audit assignments (21 February 2001)
AC/1446	Amendments to the financial regulations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (28 February 2001)

Oral statements and reports[a]

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Revised budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.80: Senegal to be added to the list of the least developed countries

Spring session 2001 (1 May–13 July)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/55/941	Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (15 May 2001)

Programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001[a]

A/55/7/Add.10	Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (4 May 2001)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[c]

A/56/7	First report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

Other reports

WFP/EB.A/2001/5 (A, B, C, D, E)/2	World Food Programme: budgetary and performance report for 2000; strategic and financial plan (2002–2005); amendments to the financial regulations on the operational reserve; report of the Executive Director on the utilization of contributions and waivers of costs; and cash management report (16 May 2001)
DP/2001/24	United Nations Development Programme: financial, budgetary and administrative matters and budget estimates for the biennium 2002–2003 (29 June 2001)
DP/FPA/2001/12	United Nations Population Fund: biennial support budget estimates for 2002–2003 (14 August 2001)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1454	Financing of a panel of experts concerning Liberia (3 May 2001)
AC/1456	Financing of the monitoring mechanism for Angola (16 May 2001)
AC/1457	United Nations Institute for Training and Research: upgrade of the post of the Executive Director from D-2 to Assistant Secretary-General (1 June 2001)
AC/1458	Gender mainstreaming: continuation of the D-1 post (1 June 2001)
AC/1460	Special Adviser on Cyprus (5 July 2001)
AC/1462	United Nations accommodation at Addis Ababa (A/CN.1/R.1194) (13 July 2001)

Other letters

AC/1459	Draft proposal for adjustments to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees budgetary presentation (7 June 2001)
AC/1464	Chairman, Committee on Conferences: current procedures for measuring the use of conference services provided to the Advisory Committee (7 August 2001)

Oral statements and reports[d]

Programme budget implications: preparations for the substantive preparatory process and the International Conference on Financing for Development

Fall session 2001
(New York, 4 September–21 December)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/56/436	Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors (4 October 2001)
A/56/475	Availability of documentation for the proper functioning of intergovernmental bodies; submission of documentation consistent

	with the six-week rule; implementation of recommendations regarding the *UN Chronicle*; re-engineering of the optical disk system; remote interpretation; provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings; excessive vacancy rates in language services at some duty stations and issues related to recruitment of language staff; utilization of the United Nations conference centres in Bangkok and Addis Ababa; improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (16 October 2001)
A/56/478	Implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (16 October 2001)
A/56/510 and Corr.1	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (29 October 2001)
A/56/511	Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2002 (26 October 2001)
A/56/518	Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (31 October 2001)
A/56/619	Safety and security of United Nations personnel (13 November 2001)
A/56/621	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (14 November 2001)
A/56/630	Standards of accommodation for air travel (15 November 2001)
A/56/644	The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47 (21 November 2001)
A/56/661	Budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (28 November 2001)
A/56/665	Budget for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 for the biennium 2002–2003 (28 November 2001)
A/56/666	Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (29 November 2001)
A/56/684	Integrated Management Information System project (6 December 2001)
A/56/685	Budget for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (6 December 2001)
A/56/688	Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (7 December 2001)
A/56/694	Second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (11 December 2001)

A/56/705	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/56/L.42 (13 December 2001)
A/56/709	The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/56/L.45 (14 December 2001)
A/56/710	World Summit on Sustainable Development: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 (14 December 2001)
A/56/711	Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (14 December 2001)
A/56/716	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78 (14 December 2001)
A/56/717	Revised estimates resulting from the strengthening of the role of internal oversight services at the International Tribunals for the biennium 2002–2003 (18 December 2001)
A/56/720	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/56/L. 62 (18 December 2001)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[d]

A/56/7/Add.1	Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (19 October 2001)
A/56/7/Add.2	Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (6 December 2001)
A/56/7/Add.3	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (11 December 2001)
A/56/7/Add.4	Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation (4 December 2001)
A/56/7/Add.5	Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (12 December 2001)
A/56/7/Add.6	Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (18 December 2001)
A/56/7/Add.7	Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (19 December 2001)

Other reports

DP/2001/29	United Nations Office for Project Services: revised budget estimates for the biennium 2000–2001, budget estimates for the biennium 2002–2003 and report on the level of the operational reserve (5 September 2001)

A/AC.96/950/Add.1	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: annual programme budget: 2002 (21 September 2001)
AC/1467	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: proposed budget for the biennium 2002–2003 (19 September 2001)
WFP/EB.3/2001/5 (A, B, C, D)/2	World Food Programme: second progress report on the implementation of recommendations in the 1998–1999 report of the external auditor; appointment of the external auditor for 2002–2005: final report of the Evaluation Panel; biennial budget for the period 2002–2003; and Information Network and Global System for Cost Analysis and Cost Containment (9 October 2001)
AC/1471	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: draft work programme and proposed budget for 2002 (29 October 2001)
AC/1472	United Nations University: proposed academic programme and budget for the University for the biennium 2002–2003 (31 October 2001)
E/CN.7/2001/18	Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: proposed final budget for the biennium 2000–2001 and proposed initial budget for the biennium 2002–2003 (5 November 2001)
E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.11	United Nations Children's Fund biennial support budget for 2002–2003 (21 November 2001)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1469	Monitoring Group in Afghanistan (4 October 2001)
AC/1470	Reappointment to the United Nations Investments Committee (9 October 2001)
AC/1475	Concurrence to enter into commitments to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (1 November 2001)
AC/1478	Security concerns arising from the tragic events of 11 September 2001 (19 November 2001)
AC/1479	Special Representative for Afghanistan (19 November 2001)
AC/1480	Maintenance of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (19 November 2001)
AC/1481	Construction of additional space at the United Nations complex in Nairobi (12 December 2001)
AC/1482	Mandatory age of separation (A/56/701) (18 December 2001)

Other letters

AC/1473	Establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General post for crisis prevention and recovery funded from extrabudgetary resources (31 October 2001)
AC/1476	President, United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund Executive Board: establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General post for crisis prevention and recovery funded from extrabudgetary resources (15 November 2001)

AC/1483	Chairman, Board of Auditors: allocation of audit assignments, effective 1 July 2002, as proposed by the Board of Auditors (19 December 2001)

Oral statements and reports[d]

Honorariums payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission

Effectiveness of the functioning of the Unit for Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Second World Assembly on Ageing

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Special session of the General Assembly on children

Development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Languages used for documents and publications in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations web site

Public information activities

Winter session 2002 (New York, 5 February–5 April)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/56/845	Proposed budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27 February 2002)
A/56/846	Mandatory age of separation (28 February 2002)
A/56/868	Final appropriation for the biennium 2000–2001 (13 March 2002)
A/56/869	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1 (13 March 2002)
A/56/887	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (5 April 2002)

A/56/887/Add.1	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (27 March 2002)
A/56/887/Add.2	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (26 March 2002)
A/56/887/Add.3	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (3 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.4	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (3 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.5	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (4 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.6	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (4 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.7	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (5 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.8	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (4 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.9	Financial performance report for the period from 31 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (5 April 2002)
A/56/887/Add.10	Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (12 April 2002)
A/56/902	The concept of strategic deployment stocks and its implementation (5 April 2002)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[d]

A/56/7/Add.8	Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (4 March 2002)

Other reports

WFP/EB.1/2002/4 (A, B)/2	World Food Programme: cash and investment: level of financial investment and investment policy and balances of projects closed prior to 2001 and migrated to the WFP Information Network and

	Global System for Cost Analysis and Cost Containment (8 February 2002)
AC/1487	United Nations Institute for Training and Research: programme budget for 2002 (21 February 2002)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1486	Establishment and support of an integrated United Nations mission in Afghanistan (15 February 2002)
AC/1488	Mine Action Service – reclassification of the post of the Chief from D-1 to D-2 (7 March 2002)
AC/1489	Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (26 March 2002)

Other letters

AC/1485	Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba: Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group meeting to be held from 22 to 26 April 2002 in Havana

Oral statements and reports[d]

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Consultants and individual contractors

Revised estimates resulting from the strengthening of the role of internal oversight services at the International Tribunals for the biennium 2002–2003

Spring 2002 session (New York, 7–24 May)

Reports to the General Assembly

A/56/887/Add.11	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 May 2002)
A/56/941	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 for the support account for peacekeeping operations (9 May 2002)
A/56/945	Financial performance report of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and proposed budget of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (16 May 2002)
A/56/946	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (17 May 2002)
A/56/948	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (17 May 2002)

A/56/949	Final performance report of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (17 May 2002)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[d]

A/56/7/Add.9	Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (9 May 2002)
A/56/7/Add.10	Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (17 May 2002)
A/56/7/Add.11	Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (20 May 2002)

Other reports

WFP/EB.A/2002/6 (A, C)/2	World Food Programme: preliminary review of the indirect support cost rate and utilization of contributions and waivers of costs (17 May 2002)
E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.6	United Nations Children's Fund: cash assistance to Government in the context of UNICEF programme cooperation modalities (30 May 2002)

Letters to the Secretary-General

AC/1492	Establishment of a post at the D-1 level for the Chief of the proposed Peace-building Unit in the Department of Political Affairs (21 May 2002)

Oral statements and reports

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/242 on the pattern of conferences

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor: final disposition of assets

Transitional financing arrangements for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized: United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building

Notes

[a] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/55/7 and Add.1–10.

[b] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/54/7 and Add.1–14).

[c] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7).

[d] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7A* (A/56/7/Add.1–11).

Document A/57/7/Add.1

Second report

Procurement reform

Outsourcing practices

Proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities of the United Nations

[11 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on procurement reform (A/57/187), outsourcing practices (A/57/185) and proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations (A/57/398). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

Procurement reform

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/187) is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/247 of 1 May 2001. The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General on the format of the report. However, the Committee is of the view that further improvements could be made. For example, in future, the report should have a brief introduction covering other aspects of procurement reform, including potential problems other than those identified in the Assembly resolution.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that while the information in the report relates to 2001 and the first half of 2002, the information in annexes I and II to the report does not go beyond 2001. The Committee requests that, in future, the most up-to-date information be included in the report.

4. The statistical data presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the level of procurement from developing countries demonstrates no significant change in favour of vendors from those countries. Moreover, in some cases it shows a real decline. The total increase in procurement from developing countries is limited to host countries of United Nations peacekeeping operations and their neighbours.

5. However, the Advisory Committee notes the efforts of the Secretariat to disseminate information relating to procurement through its web site, letters to permanent missions and business seminars and briefings to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries.

6. On the issue of the simplification of vendor registration, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while a provisionally registered vendor may participate in the bidding process, the registration process must be completed by that vendor before the award of a contract since contracts are awarded only to vendors listed in the United Nations register. **Nevertheless, the Committee expresses its concern about provisional registration in that it might introduce inequality in the way the companies that wish to be registered with the United Nations are treated. The Committee considers it important that any vendor from any country have an equal opportunity to register and that only fully registered vendors who have received legal and financial background scrutiny be awarded contracts.**

7. During the hearings, the Advisory Committee found that the problem of delays in payments to vendors remains chronic and that delays of two or three months beyond the standard 30 days are still frequent. **The Committee considers it important to remedy the situation.**

8. The additional information provided to the Advisory Committee indicated that the total procurement for 2001 amounted to 854.4 million United States dollars, out of which $222 million, or 26 per cent, related to air transportation services. The Committee notes that this gross figure is inclusive of a number of purchases of services, such as legal, insurance, travel and medical services contracts, which were incorporated into the statistics for the first time (ibid., annex I, notes, para. 4). The Committee was informed that, while air transportation of personnel is still conducted only by certified air operators, brokers are allowed to participate in the air shipment of United Nations cargo. According to the Procurement Division, the services of brokers might be more efficient and less expensive. The Committee was informed that out of $105.3 million spent to move United Nations cargo by air in 2000–2001, brokers provided services worth $8.3 million, or approximately 8 per cent, and the balance of $97 million, or 92 per cent, of cargo airlifts was used for certified air operators. **The Committee cautions that, despite the potential economic advantages of using brokers, the safety of United Nations personnel and the cargo they might be accompanying is of paramount importance, as is full compliance with established safety standards and regulations.**

9. On a related matter, the Advisory Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that the Procurement Manual is consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Outsourcing practices

10. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/185) is submitted in compliance with the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 55/232 of 23 December 2000. The Advisory Committee notes from the annex to the report that, while the installation and maintenance of electronic software has been outsourced at United Nations Headquarters because technical skills are not readily available, there is no reference to current practice at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office at Vienna. **The Committee requests that this information be included in the next report.**

11. **The Advisory Committee also requests that, in future, whenever an activity is outsourced for reasons of cost efficiency, the related saving should be indicated.**

Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

12. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/398) is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/238 of 24 December 2001, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a single report containing recommendations related to proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities of the United Nations.

13. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report that, in the light of reports, reviews and initiatives being prepared by the Secretary-General that would have an impact on the overall question of the commercial activities of the Organization, the comprehensive recommendations requested by the General Assembly would be submitted in the context of its consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005.

Document A/57/7/Add.2

Third report

Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization

[10 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support and enhancement of the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization (A/57/355). During its consideration of the matter, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted in response to paragraph 145 of General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit concrete proposals on strengthening the Department of Public Information within existing resources in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Organization's web site was created in 1995 through the redeployment of staff and non-staff resources from several areas of the Department. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (ibid., para. 4), for the biennium 2002–2003, the General Assembly allocated resources for this activity in the amount of 3,462,400 United States dollars, including: 17 redeployed regular budget posts (11 Professional (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 6 P-3, 2 P-2) and 6 General Service); and operational requirements for the Information Technology Section of the Department, which is responsible for web-related activities. In addition, there is a provision under general temporary assistance for one P-2 and four General Service posts, as well as funding from extrabudgetary resource for one P-3 and three General Service posts. The staffing structure is shown in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 5).

4. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that the current resource capacity of the Department is barely at the maintenance level, and is not adequate to sustain the rapid expansion in the use of the web site or to keep pace with the daily addition of new material occurring in all the official languages (ibid., para. 8). The Department cannot, therefore, absorb the additional costs required to ensure the management of the enhanced content in all six official languages. The Advisory Committee notes that the number of web site accesses recorded for 2001 totalled 1.12 billion, compared to 488 million in 2000 (see A/AC.198/2002/6, para. 8, table).

5. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that a total amount of $1,297,500 would be required to ensure the "continued development, maintenance and enrichment of the web site in all official languages" (A/57/355, paras. 8 and 19). The breakdown of the resource requirements is contained in the annex to that report. As shown, provision is made for eight new Professional (6 P-4, 2 P-3) and six General Service posts, including the conversion of the three General Service positions funded from general temporary assistance (see para. 3 above) into established posts. Two Professional staff members would be allocated to each language, thus ensuring language site coverage at all times.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposal under consideration is in line with action 2 (ibid., para. 9), which was presented as the most desirable and feasible course of action in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the question of the development and enhancement of the United Nations web site in all the official languages of the Organization (A/AC.198/2002/6). This action would "Allow the web sites to develop independently in each language, on the basis of the

resource capacities of author Departments and Offices", compared to the more costly action 1, which would "Replicate all materials on the English web site in the other language sites".

7. The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General for the work achieved so far regarding the web site of the Organization and recognizes the importance of the web site as an outreach tool, as well as the importance of language parity as a means towards serving a broader spectrum of users. The Committee reiterates its view, expressed in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003,[1] that a pragmatic and realistic approach to this matter is required. In this connection, the Committee also notes from the report of the Secretary-General that the Committee on Information was not able to reach any decision on the issue of parity on the web site, requesting another report on the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of achieving parity for all official languages of the web site (A/57/355, para. 15). The Committee further notes that in his report the Secretary-General, while reaffirming that action 2 appears as the most feasible, indicated that, within those cost parameters, there would be a need for prioritizing by exempting certain elements of the web site from translation requirements, such as treaties and press releases, which would continue to be provided in the languages in which they are currently issued (ibid., para. 16). This would require a decision by the General Assembly.

8. Should the General Assembly agree with the proposal to proceed along the lines set out in action 2, the related budgetary requirements are estimated at up to $1.3 million (see para. 5 above). **However, in view of the ongoing review of the Department of Public Information and consideration by the General Assembly of the proposals contained in the recent report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General proceed to implement his proposal on the web site and report on the budgetary requirements, if any, in this regard in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2002–2003.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), para. VII.11.

Document A/57/7/Add.3

Fourth report

Plan to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Common services

Trends in extrabudgetary resources at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the impact on its capacity to carry out the programme of work

Delivery of advisory services

Decentralized budgetary and financial arrangements for central services

Cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions

[11 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the following: plan to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/57/362); common services (A/57/176); trends in extrabudgetary resources at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the impact on its capacity to carry out the programme of work (A/57/364); delivery of advisory services (A/57/363); and decentralized budgetary and financial arrangements for central services (A/57/348); and the note by the Secretary-General on cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions (A/57/361). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

A. Plan to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/362) is submitted pursuant to a request contained in paragraph 161 of General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 that the Secretary-General report on his plan for the upcoming bienniums for gradually increasing the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, with a view towards easing the administrative costs levied on the substantive programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).[1]

3. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that the Secretary-General in his report reflected the efforts that had been made in this regard during the past three bienniums, indicating that further proposals to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi would be submitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005. In this connection, in his proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004–2005, the Secretary-General states that resources are foreseen to strengthen peace-building, human rights and humanitarian assistance, the economic and social sector, as well as conference-servicing and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (see A/57/85, para. 6).

4. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly endorse the approach proposed by the Secretary-General in his report.**

B. Common services

5. The Advisory Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on common services (A/57/176). The representatives of the Secretary-General provided the Committee with additional information on and clarification of the issues under consideration. The Committee takes note of the status of the technical working groups of the Task Force on Common Services and encourages greater cooperation, especially in such areas as travel and the development of procurement-dedicated web sites. The Committee intends to revert to this matter in the context of its consideration of section 27D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005.

C. Trends in extrabudgetary resources at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the impact on its capacity to carry out the programme of work

6. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/364) is submitted in response to a request made in paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 56/253 for the submission of concrete proposals to address the impact of declining extrabudgetary resources for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. The Advisory Committee welcomes the presentation of the report, which contains information on the evolution of extrabudgetary resources during the past three bienniums, the overall extrabudgetary resource trend, the experience in extrabudgetary resource mobilization during the biennium 2000–2001, the main sources of extrabudgetary resources and restrictions to the expansion and diversification of such resources.

8. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided in tables 1 and 2 of the report that, in spite of variations between projected and actual expenditures from one biennium to the next, there has been an increase in extrabudgetary resources during the past three bienniums – from 16.5 million United States dollars in actual expenditures in 1996–1997 to $20 million in 2000–2001. The variations are due to uncertainties inherent in making projections based on pledges two years in advance of the actual execution of the programme of work, as well as exchange rate adjustments. The Committee referred to the difficulty of forecasting extrabudgetary resources in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[5]

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General**

D. Delivery of advisory services

10. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/363) is submitted pursuant to paragraph 94 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the Secretary-General was requested to consider, with respect to the delivery of advisory services to Member States, avoiding duplication and achieving optimum and effective use of resources.

11. Despite the general information given, the report does not specifically address the request of the General Assembly. It is the intention of the Advisory Committee to follow up on this issue in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2004–2005.

E. Decentralized budgetary and financial arrangements for central services

12. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/348) is submitted pursuant to paragraph 37 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the Secretary-General was requested to study the possibility of introducing a practice whereby user departments within the United Nations Secretariat would bear increased responsibility for paying for services currently borne centrally under section 27, Management and central support services, of the budget. The report outlines the

measures already in place for decentralized funding of central services and provides a review of advantages and disadvantages of decentralized funding arrangements, as well as the potential for further decentralized funding of central services. The Advisory Committee welcomes this analysis and the subsequent steps that have been taken.

13. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to remain seized with the matter and to submit such proposals as he deems necessary in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2004–2005.**

F. Cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions

14. The note by the Secretary-General (A/57/361) is submitted pursuant to paragraph 69 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the Secretary-General was requested to further enhance cooperation between relevant headquarters departments and regional commissions in order to ensure the quality of output and services to Member States and to address the duplication and overlap of services, where they existed, and to improve the efficiency of programme support activities. The note by the Secretary-General contains no substantive information.

15. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of the note that the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields[3] addresses the issue of cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions. During the hearings, the Committee was informed that the issue was a relevant item on the agenda of the Second Committee and that it would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1).

Notes

[1] Formerly United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. 57 and 58.

[3] E/2002/15.

Document A/57/7/Add.4

Fifth report

Capital master plan

[11 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan (A/57/285 and Corr.1). In the course of its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification. The Committee also took into account the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters".[1]

2. In June 2000, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly proposing a major refurbishment of the United Nations Headquarters complex in New York.[2] In that report, the Secretary-General indicated that the current "reactive approach" to maintaining the Headquarters and undertaking the required remedial work as and when needed was inefficient and would become excessively expensive as the buildings aged further. The Secretary-General thus proposed a long-term capital master plan, to be implemented over a period of six years, to remedy those deficiencies in a comprehensive, systematic and cost-effective manner. In its related report,[3] the Advisory Committee commented on the need to protect the Organization against cost overruns and on the need for close coordination with local authorities with regard to health and safety requirements at all stages of the capital master plan. The Committee also cautioned against presenting improvement and expansion plans that would be unrealistic or overly ambitious. The Committee's observations and recommendations were endorsed by the Assembly in section IV of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000. **The Committee recognizes the efforts that have been made so far in response to its concerns.**

3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also authorized, without prejudice to its final decision, the preparation of a comprehensive design plan and detailed cost analysis for the capital master plan and appropriated 8 million United States dollars for that purpose. Moreover, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the comprehensive design plan and detailed cost analysis, including details of measures designed to protect the Organization from cost overruns, and to ensure that the preparation of the plan and cost analysis would identify all viable alternatives in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

4. According to the Secretary-General, the updated projected cost of the reactive approach over the period 2005–2029 is currently estimated at $2,088 million, an increase of $444 million over the original estimate, due to a significant increase in energy costs and a change in the project start date to October 2004 (ibid., para. 3). The Secretary-General also indicates that, although in theory the reactive approach could remain an option at least in the short term, in practice such an approach would subject delegates, staff and visitors to serious safety and security hazards and involve serious interruptions of the work of the Organization due to building, equipment and system failures (ibid., para. 76). **The Advisory Committee shares the assessment of the Secretaty-General of the reactive approach and his view that there is no choice but to proceed with the implementation of the capital master plan and that the only question remaining is how to implement it in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.**

5. As can be seen from the diagram of the preliminary design phase process (ibid., para. 10), the project team has evaluated more than 60 alternatives; over 40 were rejected and about 20 represent the basis upon which the capital master plan proposal was refined. The Secretary-General indicates that in order to proceed with the plan, the scope of work should be established, through a decision by the General Assembly, on two elements: (*a*) the baseline scope of work

consisting of core refurbishment and improvements estimated to range from $991 million to $1,094 million, depending on phasing options; and (*b*) three additional areas of expenditure ("scope options") totalling $180 million (additional security options estimated at $30 million, redundancy and contingency options estimated at $75 million and sustainable innovation options estimated at $75 million) (ibid., para. 35).

6. The report of the Secretary-General also contains information on the core refurbishment programme of the baseline scope. The Advisory Committee observes that the replacement of the Secretariat building's window assembly (the "curtain wall"), which is currently being treated as a scope option, may become a baseline necessity, depending on the outcome of the testing and assessment. Accordingly, the cost of the baseline scope would be increased by $36 million, and the cost of the scope options would be reduced by an equivalent amount (ibid., paras. 17 and 18). Partially offsetting this additional cost would be a downward adjustment of $17 million for previously approved security measures.

7. The improvements included in the baseline scope are the expansion and improvement of meeting facilities; the addition of a new full-sized conference room and a multi-purpose room; consolidation of information technology service spaces; and improvement of public spaces, complementing the project to improve the experience of visitors to the United Nations (ibid., paras. 19–28). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the cost of the new conference room and multi-function hall was estimated at $57 million; the cost of improving meeting facilities and consolidating information technology service spaces was estimated at $12 million; and the cost of improving public areas was estimated at $11 million. It is currently anticipated that conceptual design work for the visitors' experience project will begin in December 2002 in order to prepare a further report in response to General Assembly resolution 56/236 of 24 December 2001 (ibid., para. 28). The initial comments of the Committee on the project are contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[4] The Committee will submit its further comments and recommendations on the visitors' experience project following its review of the report on the subject to be prepared by the Secretary-General.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the implementation of the capital master plan on the basis of the baseline scope proposed by the Secretary-General. The total cost should be adjusted to reflect a reduction of $17 million previously appropriated for security measures.**

9. **Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposed scope options for additional security, improved redundancy and enhanced sustainability, bearing in mind that the condition of the Secretariat building's curtain wall may necessitate the inclusion of $36 million for its replacement in the baseline rather than as a scope option, with the corresponding reduction of $36 million in the estimated cost of the scope options.**

10. According to the Secretary-General, the selected scope of work can be implemented in a number of different ways, and the need for temporary swing space will change accordingly. The Secretary-General outlines the following two approaches through which the capital master plan can be implemented:

(*a*) First approach: to vacate most, if not all, of the Headquarters complex, which would require a substantial amount of so-called swing space, and to carry out the refurbishment programme as expeditiously as possible (ibid., paras. 40–42);

(*b*) Second approach: to carry out the planned refurbishment in an incremental manner, with a minimum of swing space requirements (ibid., paras. 43–47).

11. According to the Secretary-General, the first approach would be the most desirable from the standpoint of the possible impact of the refurbishment programme on the work of the Organization, the cost and duration of the project, cost overruns and the perceived environmental implications for delegates, staff and visitors during implementation. Moreover, the cost of the

capital master plan would be reduced by $73 million and the refurbishment period would be shortened by at least one year in comparison with the second approach (ibid., paras. 77 and 79).

12. In July 2002, the City of New York expressed its readiness to support the capital master plan project and indicated its willingness to consider the construction of a new building in 2004 and 2005 through the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) (ibid., para. 40). The new building, proposed to be built on a site on the east side of First Avenue between 41st and 42nd Streets, which is currently a playground, could be utilized as swing space. Use of the site would require that the City make some provision for park amenities to the community to compensate for the loss of the playground. Considerations for possible financing of the building are set out in annex I to the present report.

13. The Advisory Committee was also informed that UNDC estimates the construction cost of the swing space building at $315.8 million. This cost does not include the potential cost of eventually converting meeting space in the new building to office space (estimated at $15–$25 million), pending a decision by the United Nations on whether any meeting rooms would remain in the new building. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.), the size of the building would range from 750,000 to 800,000 square feet. However, in additional information provided to the Committee, the size of the building is indicated as 900,000 square feet. The Committee sought clarification as to the size of the swing space building. The Secretariat clarified that the initial information provided to the United Nations capital master plan team by the City of New York and UNDC was that the building could be approximately 800,000 square feet. Further analysis by the UNDC design team indicated that it would be possible to construct on the site a building of up to 900,000 square feet. The final size of the building would be known once the design and planning process had been completed. The Secretariat anticipates that the new building will be between 800,000 and 900,000 square feet. The new building would provide significant swing space and house the majority of both Secretariat and conference and meeting room functions during the refurbishment of the entire Headquarters complex from December 2005 to December 2009. **The Committee is of the view that the size and design of the building should be in harmony with the Headquarters complex and that the building should be of such quality that it would meet the highest industry standards and provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate the foreseeable future needs of the Organization.**

14. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the preliminary estimate of the cost of purchasing the building after the construction is completed in 2005 is $335 million, including building costs of $315.8 million and construction loan and management costs of $19.2 million.

15. Another option would be a lease purchase agreement under which the United Nations would lease the swing space building from UNDC at an annual cost of $24 million (based on $30 per square foot for 800,000 square feet), for a total cost of $96 million for the four-year period from December 2005 to December 2009. **The Advisory Committee points out that this is a preliminary estimate, as both the rental price and the size of the space may vary (see para. 13 above).** If the United Nations entered into a lease purchase agreement, the ownership of the building and the land would be transferred to the United Nations at the end of the bond period (see additional information in annex I to the present report).

16. The United Nations functions would return to the existing Headquarters complex in January 2010. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, after completion of the capital master plan, the new building could be used to consolidate the space currently leased by the United Nations in the UNDC-1 and UNDC-2 buildings, as well as in overflow offices located in commercially leased premises, with the objective of obtaining a rental rate comparable to that which is currently being paid by the United Nations for the UNDC buildings (ibid., para. 41). The Advisory Committee was informed that the consolidation of the leased spaces after the completion of the plan in 2010 (assuming that part of the United Nations Development Programme would also be relocated to the new building) would result in the avoidance of annual

rental costs for UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and other rented buildings at Headquarters that would be comparable to the $24.8 million cost of leasing the new building.

17. **The Advisory Committee points out that there are a number of costing variables that would have to be clarified if and when detailed estimates for this approach are presented in future. For example, the information concerning the provision of conference space in the new building and its impact on the baseline cost remains to be clarified in the context of the detailed proposal on the new building (see annex I to the present report, para. 9). Moreover, as shown in annex I and referred to in paragraphs 13 and 15 above, potential variables with respect to the size of the building and the rental cost still remain. In addition, the Committee points out that at some stage, the question of maintenance will have to be addressed, as well as the problem of providing adequate parking facilities for delegations and staff. The detailed proposals to be submitted should address both of those issues.**

18. The second approach is characterized by the fact that the planned refurbishment would be implemented in an incremental manner, with a minimum of swing space requirements (ibid., paras. 43–47). With this approach, there would be no need for the construction of a large building, as contemplated under the first approach. As shown in tables 3 and 4 of the report of the Secretary-General, the estimated cost of baseline scope and swing space under this approach would amount to $1,160 million, assuming an estimated six-year duration of the capital master plan. The Advisory Committee notes that the second approach would cause the least disruption of the meeting programme. However, the risk of cost overruns, delays, disturbance and perceived risk of exposure to asbestos is the highest under this approach (ibid., para. 46).

19. **The Advisory Committee shares the view of the Secretary-General that the first approach is the most desirable way of implementing the capital master plan.**

20. **Taking into account the fact that the cost of the capital master plan will escalate at the rate of $35 million to $40 million per year in the event of a delay (ibid., para. 67), the Advisory Committee points out that delays in the implementation of the plan due to difficulties encountered in any phase of its development could have a significant impact on the cost of the project. The Committee requests that, if necessary, representatives of the Secretary-General work with all partners involved to plan for ways and means of minimizing any impact on the cost of the project.**

21. **In this regard, the Advisory Committee, in recommending the first approach, recognizes the importance of the goodwill of the host city, and encourages the Secretary-General to work with it to minimize the financial impact of any delay.**

22. The management aspects of the project are outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., paras. 48–57 and annexes II and III). The management structure of the capital master plan would consist of three main components: the programme management group, the architectural and engineering team and the construction management team (ibid., para. 49). In the design development and construction documentation phases, the architectural and engineering design team would take the substantive lead, with the construction manager providing advice. In the final two phases, procurement and construction, the construction manager would take the lead, particularly in the construction phase, when he or she would direct the construction contractors. The management team would receive support from concerned offices and departments in the areas of legal services, treasury, human resources, procurement, public information, conference services and other services (ibid., para. 52).

23. The Advisory Committee notes that the cost of the three management components is included in the capital master plan project budget in the amount of $22.5 million in the first year and $22 million in the second year of the remaining design phases, when the bulk of the architectural and engineering design fees would be required (ibid., para. 56). The Committee was provided, upon request, with the breakdown of those amounts, which is contained in annex II to the present report. **The Committee sought information on the management team, including categories of staff, the method of recruitment, their functions and the duration of their**

contracts. Information provided by the Secretariat in response to the Committee's request is contained in annex III to the present report.

24. The Secretary-General proposes to appropriate an amount of $22.5 million under section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[5] and to make provision for a further $22 million under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 (ibid., para. 84 (*i*) and (*j*)). **The Advisory Committee recommends instead the establishment of a separate and distinct special account for income and expenditures related to the capital master plan. The account would be managed in the same way as the construction-in-progress account now in use. If this proposal is accepted by the General Assembly, the Committee further recommends that the amount of $22.5 million referred to above be appropriated to the special account, followed by a further appropriation of $22 million upon such proposal by the Secretary-General.**

25. With respect to the issue of financing the proposed capital master plan (ibid., paras. 63–69 and 82), the Secretary-General indicates that serious consideration should be given to financing the plan through an interest-free loan from Member States, without prejudice to the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to mobilize financial resources from both public and private sectors. Failing that, consideration should be given, in the view of the Secretary-General, to resorting to commercial borrowing through bond issues. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the Organization has not resorted in the past to commercial borrowing, and it does not find any compelling reason to change that practice. In any case, the funding arrangement should be developed as soon as possible after the various negotiations with the host authorities are completed and the projected final cost is known accurately. The funding arrangement should be reported to the General Assembly for its approval.**

26. The Advisory Committee notes the fund-raising activities referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 68). **Information on those efforts should be provided in the detailed proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General.**

27. **The Advisory Committee requests that the Secretary-General ensure that the relevant United Nations financial regulations and rules, staff regulations and rules and procurement and contractual rules and procedures be strictly applied at all stages of the capital master plan project.**

28. **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of oversight with respect to the development and implementation of the capital master plan. To that end, the Committee trusts that both the Internal Audit Service of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors will ensure adequate oversight of the project from the beginning to its completion. The Committee also requests that the General Assembly be provided with progress reports on the project on an annual basis, containing comprehensive information on project implementation.**

29. The Advisory Committee notes that an advisory board, which was originally referred to as a "financial advisory group" in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan,[6] is currently being formed to provide advice on overall project issues (ibid., para. 66). The Committee was informed that the advisory board would also focus on issues related to a new UNDC building, including architectural integrity and harmony, as well as the linkage with the visitors' experience project. **The Committee welcomes this development.**

30. **The Advisory Committee welcomes with appreciation the offer of support from the City of New York in the implementation of the capital master plan. The General Assembly may wish to encourage further cooperation with the relevant authorities of the host country, as appropriate, at each stage of the development and implementation of the plan, including on the financing options for the project. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to encourage Member States and private donors to offer voluntary contributions, both in cash and in kind, for the financing of the project.**

Notes

[1] See A/56/274.

[2] A/55/117 and Add.1.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/55/7 and Add.1–10), document A/55/7/Add.4, paras. 5–7.

[4] Ibid, *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. 103–113.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

[6] See A/55/117, para. 18.

Annex I

Responses to questions raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the capital master plan

(24–26 September 2002)

1. The following clarifications are offered with regard to the swing space aspect of the first approach, representing relocation of all meeting space and Secretariat building offices in accordance with the proposal by the City of New York to construct a new building on First Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets. The estimates are in preliminary form and have been developed on the basis of elements to be discussed with the host authorities.

A. New swing space and consolidation building proposal

2. The United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) would issue bonds to fund the construction of a new building, "UNDC-5", as well as the cost of an esplanade along the East River as mitigation for the loss of the playground site. The bonds would be repaid by the funds received from United Nations lease payments.

3. UNDC would construct the building during the years 2004 and 2005.

4. The esplanade would be constructed by the City of New York, with funding from the UNDC bonds.

5. Refurbishment under the capital master plan would begin in October 2004, with the first year involving infrastructure and site work not requiring relocation.

6. United Nations functions would relocate from the existing Headquarters complex into UNDC-5 for the period from December 2005 to December 2009. During this period, the United Nations would lease the space from UNDC. This is the cost of swing space for the first approach. (See "lease calculation" below)

7. United Nations functions would return to the existing complex in January 2010.

8. Personnel would be relocated from all of UNDC-1 and UNDC-2, as well as from commercially leased spaces, into the new building. (See office space summary table below)

9. During the period when the building was being used as swing space, temporary meeting facilities would be created in UNDC-5. Those facilities would be converted to office space once meeting functions were transferred back to the existing complex. (There is an opportunity to allow two large rooms to remain as meeting rooms: one to be used as a large conference room and the other to be used as a multi-purpose room. In that case, those two new rooms would not be required as part of the baseline scope of the capital master plan. This would result in a reduction in cost of approximately $57 million.

10. The building would be occupied under a lease purchase arrangement. At the end of the bond period (see para. 18 below), the ownership of the building and the land would be transferred, without any cost, to the United Nations.

11. For the purposes of this presentation, it is assumed that most United Nations Development Programme offices are included in the relocation.

B. Swing space period lease calculation

12. The following assumptions were used in estimating the lease cost of UNDC-5 for the swing space period in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/285 and Corr.1):

Size of UNDC-5		800 000 square feet
Annual cost per square foot		30 dollars
Annual cost		24 million dollars
Number of years required		4
	Total cost	**96 million dollars**

C. Estimated lease costs

13. The following information, which is based on the preliminary estimates prepared by UNDC, became available following submission of the report of the Secretary-General:

Estimated lease costs

(Millions of United States dollars)

UNDC-5	*2005*	*2010*	*2013*	*2018*
Estimated fixed rent	27.59	27.59	27.59	27.59
Estimated operating rent	5.42	6.96	7.95	9.80
Total	**33.01**	**34.55**	**35.54**	**37.39**

14. Following is comparable information for UNDC-1 and UNDC-2, in accordance with current leases. UNDC estimates that the UNDC-5 building would be 15 per cent more efficient than the UNDC-1 and UNDC-2 buildings, resulting in a smaller space requirement. If so, the adjusted figure for comparison purposes would be as noted below:

Estimated lease costs

(Millions of United States dollars)

	2005	*2010*	*2013*	*2018*
UNDC-1 and UNDC-2				
Projected average rent under current leases	26.30	30.80	34.49	40.14
UNDC-5				
Comparable rent, reflecting greater efficiency due to more efficient floor plan in comparison with UNDC-1 or 2	29.41	30.95	31.94	33.79

15. Current asking rents in Manhattan average $54 per square foot.

D. Cost estimate for new building

16. UNDC advises that a 900,000 square foot building would be feasible on the site. Should the United Nations agree to a building of that size, the construction costs would be $315.8 million, including mitigation and other project costs.

17. UNDC advises that this estimate does not include the potential cost of converting meeting space to office space (estimated at $15–$25 million), pending a decision by the United Nations on whether any meeting rooms would remain in the new building.

E. Financial summary

18. The City of New York anticipates that UNDC would float bonds to finance the construction of the new building and that the income obtained from leasing the building to the United Nations would be used to service the bonds. The bonds would be tax-exempt (subject to United States Federal Government approval). The bond period would be 30 to 35 years, depending on interest rates. Interest rates are currently calculated at 5 per cent.

19. The interest on the bonds during construction would be capitalized and a debt service reserve would be established.

F. Lease purchase costs

20. The annual lease cost with a fixed base rent would total $24.8 million. This includes a fixed base rent only. Operating rental costs would be similar to those in current leases. Energy costs would be reduced in UNDC-5.

21. The cost of outright purchase of UNDC-5 in 2005 is estimated as follows

	Millions of United States dollars
Building costs	315.8
Construction loan and management costs	19.2
Total	**335.0**

22. The cost of purchase in later years is estimated as follows:

	Millions of United States dollars
Purchase in 2010	316.2
Purchase in 2016	$271.0
Purchase in 2036	Nil

23. The total cost of the new building to be constructed by UNDC is necessarily lower than the estimate for refurbishment of the existing Headquarters complex for two reasons:

(*a*) The *size* of the new building is approximately 900,000 square feet (83,613 square metres). The size of the seven buildings being refurbished under the capital master plan is approximately 2,636,607 square feet (244,949 square metres);

(*b*) The relative *efficiency of new construction* as compared with the refurbishment of existing buildings, particularly of buildings of extraordinary quality with characteristics that must be preserved. Refurbishment has additional intrinsic complexities:

- The removal of old materials, both visible and hidden
- The cost of removing hazardous materials
- The necessity of fitting new systems into existing situations, for example, new ductwork cutting through an existing wall – in a new building, the piping would be installed first
- The necessity of matching new materials to existing materials
- The need to protect existing building features, such as artwork or special panelling

These tend to add both time and cost in comparison with new construction.

Table AI.1

United Nations office space summary – New York

		Before the capital master plan, 2002		*2010, if no consolidation*		*After the capital master plan 2010, with new UNDC building*[a]	
Building	*Organization*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*
UNDC-1[b]	United Nations	189 569	4 170 518	189 569	4 834 010	0	0
	UNDP	149 574	3 290 628	149 574	3 814 137	0	0
Subtotal		**339 143**	**7 461 146**	**339 143**	**8 648 147**	**0**	**0**
UNDC-2[b]	United Nations	286 753	6 308 566	286 753	7 312 202	0	0
	United Nations storage	10 180	8 000	10 180	10 180	0	0
	UNDP	13 246	291 412	13 246	337 773	0	0
	Other organization	21 000	462 000	21 000	518 700	0	0
Subtotal		**331 179**	**7 069 978**	**331 179**	**8 178 855**	**0**	**0**
UNDC-3	UNICEF	**180 491**	**1 591 134**	**180 491**	**5 865 958**	**180 491**	**5 865 958**
UNDC-5[b]	United Nations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**900 000**	**24 827 000**
FF Building[c]	United Nations	97 745	3 024 083	97 745	3 671 815	0	0
	UNDP	179 473	3 829 005	179 473	3 908 435	126 163	2 747 452
Subtotal		**277 218**	**6 853 088**	**277 218**	**7 580 250**	**126 163**	**2 747 452**
Alcoa Building[d]	United Nations	**30 845**	**1 458 352**	**30 845**	**1 829 741**	**0**	**0**
Nigeria House[d]	United Nations	**24 846**	**838 553**	**24 846**	**941 539**	**0**	**0**
Uganda House[d]	United Nations	7 791	225 939	7 791	275 256	0	0
	UNDP	15 141	477 873	15 141	518 542	0	0
Subtotal		**22 932**	**703 812**	**22 932**	**793 798**	**0**	**0**
633 Third Avenue	UNICEF	**94 769**	**1 591 134**	**94 769**	**1 591 134**	**94 769**	**1 591 134**
Daily News Building	UNFPA	**90 699**	**3 265 164**	**90 699**	**3 900 057**	**90 699**	**3 900 057**
Chrysler Building	UNOPS	76 241	**3 288 274**	**76 241**	**3 288 274**	**76 241**	**3 288 274**
Total		**1 468 363**	**34 120 635**	**1 468 363**	**42 617 753**	**1 468 363**	**42 219 875**

Note: The number of square feet indicated here does not reflect potential space reductions in UNDC-5 due to greater efficiency. The table does not include archive and cargo spaces, which total 44,819 square feet.

[a] Assuming that all conference rooms are converted to office space.

[b] Base rent only; does not include operating rent.

[c] Assuming that part of UNDP would be relocated to UNDC-5.

[d] Or similar space at similar terms.

Table AI.2

United Nations office space summary – New York (excludes UNICEF, UNFPA and UNOPS)

		Before the capital master plan, 2002		*2010, if no consolidation*		*After the capital master plan 2010, with new UNDC building*[a]	
Building	*Organization*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*	*Space (square feet)*	*Cost per year (United States dollars)*
UNDC-1[b]	United Nations	189 569	4 170 518	189 569	4 834 010	0	0
	UNDP	149 574	3 290 628	149 574	3 814 137	0	0
Subtotal		**339 143**	**7 461 146**	**339 143**	**8 648 147**	**0**	**0**
UNDC-2[b]	United Nations	286 753	6 308 566	286 753	7 312 202	0	0
	United Nations storage	10 180	8 000	10 180	10 180	0	0
	UNDP	13 246	291 412	13 246	337 773	0	0
	Other organization	21 000	462 000	21 000	518 700	0	0
Subtotal		**331 179**	**7 069 978**	**331 179**	**8 178 855**	**0**	**0**
UNDC-5[b]	United Nations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**900 000**	**24 827 000**
FF Building[c]	United Nations	97 745	3 024 083	97 745	3 671 815	0	0
	UNDP	179 473	3 829 005	179 473	3 908 435	126 163	2 747 452
Subtotal		**277 218**	**6 853 088**	**277 218**	**7 580 250**	**126 163**	**2 747 452**
Alcoa Building[d]	United Nations	**30 845**	**1 458 352**	**30 845**	**1 829 741**	**0**	**0**
Nigeria House[d]	United Nations	**24 846**	**838 553**	**24 846**	**941 539**	**0**	**0**
Uganda House[d]	United Nations	7 791	225 939	7 791	275 256	0	0
	UNDP	15 141	477 873	15 141	518 542	0	0
Subtotal		**22 932**	**703 812**	**22 932**	**793 798**	**0**	**0**
Total		**1 026 163**	**24 384 929**	**1 026 163**	**27 972 330**	**1 026 163**	**27 574 452**

Note: The number of square feet indicated here does not reflect potential space reductions in UNDC-5 due to greater efficiency.

[a] Assuming that all conference rooms are converted to office space.

[b] Base rent only; does not include operating rent.

[c] Assuming that part of UNDP would be relocated to UNDC-5.

[d] Or similar space at similar terms.

Table A1.3

Inventory of buildings owned and leased by the United Nations in New York[a]

Building	*Year occupied by the United Nations*	*Gross floor area (square metres)*	*Storeys*	*Basements*	*Status*
United Nations Headquarters – Secretariat	1950	83 613	39	4	Owned
Conference building	1952	39 710	5	2	Owned
Conference building extension	1982	1 390	2	–	Owned
General Assembly building	1952	29 409	4	1	Owned
Dag Hammarskjöld Library	1962	11 018	4	3	Owned
South Annex building	1982	3 651	2	–	Owned
North Lawn – printing	1981	9 244	–	2	Owned
Parking Garage and Service Drive	1952	64 220	–	3	Owned
UNITAR building	1954	2 694	5	1	Owned
Secretary-General's residence	1972	1 305	4	1	Owned
UNDC-1 building	1976	17 618	14	–	Rented
UNDC-2 building	1983	26 650	23	–	Rented
FF building – 304 East 45th St.	1995	10 483	7	1	Rented
Archives – 345 Park Ave. South (lease expired 31 July 2000)	1978	–	2	–	Rented
UNDC-2 building – storage	1981	946	–	2	Rented
JFK airport – cargo space	1979	19	1	–	Rented
Alcoa building	2001	2 867	3	–	Rented
Falchi building	2000	2 747	2	–	Rented
Nigeria House	2000	2 309	4	–	Rented
Uganda House	2002	724	3	–	Rented
Total		**310 617**			

[a] The present table updates information submitted in document A/54/628, annex I, table A1.1.

Table AI.4

Gross floor area of buildings occupied by the United Nations in New York[a]

Buildings owned and leased at nominal or no cost

(Gross floor area (square metres))

Owned	*Leased at nominal or no cost*	*Total*
246 254	–	246 254

Buildings rented and/or leased at commercial rates

(Gross floor area (square metres))

Rented	*Leased*	*Total*
64 363	–	64 363

[a] The present table updates information submitted in document A/54/628, annex I, table AI.2.

Table AI.5

Summary of physical size of sites occupied by the United Nations in New York

(Hectares)[a]

	Status		
Building	*United Nations ownership of land and buildings*	*Lease at nominal or no cost*	*Total area, ownership and lease combined*
United Nations Headquarters	7.08	–	7.08

[a] The present table updates information submitted in document A/54/628, annex I, table AI.2.

Annex II

Capital master plan: phase II, design development, and phase III, construction documents[a]

(Cost estimates for 2003 and 2004)

(in thousands of United States dollars)

2003		
1.	Architectural and engineering design	
	Phase II (100%), design development	8 300
	Additional services (swing space and real estate and space programming, models and renderings)	1 000
	Phase III (15%), construction documents	2 500
2.	Construction manager	1 500
3.	United Nations project management	
	Direct staff costs	3 750
	Support costs	1 600
	Consultants (peer review, project management advice and support, advisory board) and inspections	1 000
	Other costs	500
4.	Provision for change from first approach to second approach	2 350
	Total, 2003	**22 500**
2004		
1.	Architectural and engineering design	
	Phase III (85%), construction documents	14 100
2.	Construction manager	2 000
3.	United Nations project management	
	Direct staff costs	4 310
	Support costs	1 440
	Consultants (peer review, project management advice and support, advisory board) and inspections	150
	Total, 2004	**22 000**

[a] Prepared based on implementation of the first approach, assuming total cost of scope of $991 million.

Annex III

Capital master plan management team

The recruitment of the United Nations team that will manage the capital master plan project will be undertaken in accordance with the financial regulations and rules and the personal policies of the Organization, and will include:

(*a*) Retention of existing staff and recruitment of additional staff from within the United Nations on a temporary basis assigned specifically to the capital master plan project;

(*b*) Recruitment of staff from other United Nations organizations on a temporary basis assigned specifically to the project;

(*c*) Recruitment externally of staff on a temporary basis and consultants who would be assigned specifically to the project;

(*d*) The provision of project management services from a private-sector company using international competitive bidding.

Management team and support services start date and contract duration

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Overall management							
Capital master plan senior manager							
Programme director							
Special assistant							
Administrative support							
Deputy director – architect							
Deputy director – engineer							
Project management							
Project managers							
Project managers							
Cost control							
Programme control manager							
Programme accountant							
Finance clerk							
Cost engineer							
Senior cost engineer							
Cost engineer							
Scheduling							
Senior scheduler							
Scheduler							
Contracts							
Contract administrator							
Document controller							

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Site personnel							
Site engineer							
Quality assurance engineer							
Safety/security inspector							
Secretarial/administrative support							
United Nations Programme Management Support							
Oversight							
Coordination – Facilities Management Division							
Conference services							
Security							
Communications/public relations							
Procurement							
Legal							
Human resources							
Treasury							
Budget							
Accounting							

Document A/57/7/Add.5

Sixth report

Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account

[16 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/57/360). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/237 of 24 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to continue to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

3. The Advisory Committee welcomes the streamlining of the presentation for the Development Account. The Committee recalls that, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, it referred to the modalities for financing of the Account and requested the Secretary-General to provide a thematic impact analysis of the projects and to expand the relevant tables to include the date of commencement, projected date of completion and the implementing agency for the project.[1] The Committee notes that information regarding progress on all projects under tranches one and two, including an evaluation of their impact, as well as information on the commencement dates, implementing agencies and anticipated dates of completion, is now posted on the United Nations web site for the Development Account.[2] Information provided to the Committee in this regard is contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

4. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.), to date, 43 projects have been approved for implementation by the General Assembly at a total cost of 39.2 million United States dollars. Moreover, as indicated in paragraph 2 and tables I, II and III of the report, 7 projects were financed under the first tranche of 1998–1999, of which 69.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as at 30 June 2002; 16 projects were financed under the second tranche of 2000–2001, of which 55.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as of the same date; and 20 projects are being financed under the third tranche for 2002–2003, of which 4.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as at 30 June 2002. The Advisory Committee notes that, as at 30 June 2002, an amount of $17 million had been spent of the $39.2 million approved.

5. The Advisory Committee notes the information in section III of the report of the Secretary-General on issues regarding the delivery of projects and in tables I, II and III which contain data in terms of expenditure as at 30 June 2002. The problems encountered in launching, programming, formulating, identifying completion dates and reporting are summarized in paragraphs 14 to 21 of the report. As indicated in paragraph 14, the start-up of the first two tranches of the Development Account was slow in view of the need to establish procedures and protocols for its operations. A majority of the projects, therefore, only became operational in 2000. In addition, as indicated in paragraphs 18 and 19, none of the projects had been completed by the end of 2001 and their completion dates are now foreseen as much as one or two years later than originally indicated, complicating, for the time being, the issue of proper assessment of impact and accomplishments. The Committee trusts, however, that, in future, it should be easier to submit clearer statements with regard to meeting the objectives set out in General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and B of 7 April and 8 June 1999, respectively.

6. The Advisory Committee notes the improvements made in connection with the management of the account, reported in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the report of the Secretary-General, such as those related to support of the integrated monitoring of Development Account projects. As indicated in paragraph 10 of the report, the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs increasingly serves as a collective manager of the Account. **The Advisory Committee cautions that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs is ultimately accountable for the management of the Development Account and that the role of the Executive Committee should therefore be to provide overall guidelines.**

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.). The Committee is of the opinion, however, that the report in connection with the Development Account should be submitted in the context of the presentation of the proposed programme budget.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. XIII.1–XIII.5.

[2] www.un.org/esa/devaccount.

Annex I

Projects funded from section 34, Development Account, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and B)

	Project title	*Implementing office*	*Actual commencement date*	*Completion date*
A	Promotion of electronic commerce	UNCTAD	July 1999	December 2003
B	Capacity-building in economic and policy analysis in Africa through the networking of expertise	ECA	July 1999	June 2003
D	Computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control	UNIDCP	July 1999	December 2003
E	Capacity-building and networking for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the least developed countries	UN-Habitat	July 1999	June 2003
F	Online network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance	DESA	August 1999	December 2003
G	Research network for economic policy analysis	DESA	February 2000	November 2002
H	Activities for capacity-building in developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	DESA	February 2000	December 2003

Annex II

Projects funded from section 33, Development Account, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/C.5/54/37; General Assembly resolution 54/249, part IV)

	Project title	*Implementing office*	*Actual commencement date*	*Completion date*
A	Capacity-building in strategic planning and management of natural resources in Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP	March 2000	December 2003
B	Training programme on addiction rehabilitation and drug prevention in the workplace for Asia and the Pacific	UNIDCP	December 2000	December 2003
C	Capacity-building to improve water management and accelerate investments in the water sector	DESA/regional commissions	May 2000	July 2003
D	Capacity-building in decision-making for sustainable development	DESA	September 2000	December 2003
E	Capacity-building for promoting gender equality in the African countries	DESA	November 2000	December 2004
F	Rational and efficient use of energy and water resources in Central Asia	ECE/ESCAP	May 2000	November 2003
G	Strengthening regional capacities for statistical development	DESA	August 2000	June 2003
H	Capacity-building and institutional development for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities	DESA	September 2000	June 2004
I	Enhancing the economic and social development policy capabilities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	May 2000	June 2003
J	Development of a collaborative framework for integrated environment assessments and reporting for West Africa	UNEP	November 2000	July 2002
K	Sustainable waste management for African countries	UN-Habitat	November 2000	December 2003
L	Urban pollution of superficial and groundwater aquifers in Africa	UNEP/ECA	August 2000	September 2002
M	Capacity-building and policy networking for sustainable resource-based development	UNCTAD/UNU	March 2000	June 2002
N	Enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for effective integration in the multilateral trading system	UNCTAD	March 2000	June 2003
O	Capacity-building for debt sustainability analysis	UNCTAD	March 2000	December 2002
P	Capacity-building for diversification and commodity-based development	UNCTAD	March 2000	June 2003

Document A/57/7/Add.6

Seventh report

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

[17 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (A/57/133). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, following Robert Edward Turner's announcement on 18 September 1997 of a gift valued at 1 billion United States dollars in support of United Nations causes, a United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was created, on 1 March 1998, to interface with the United Nations Foundation. An agreement was signed on 12 June 1998 between the United Nations and the Foundation, the text of which is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on UNFIP of 24 November 1998.[1]

3. The report of the Secretary-General (ibid.) was submitted in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/466 of 31 March 1998, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform it on a regular basis about the activities of UNFIP.

4. As indicated in the report, since the launching in 1998 of the partnership between UNFIP and the Foundation, a total of $423 million had been programmed as at the end of 2001, involving 222 projects in 120 countries and 33 United Nations implementing partners (ibid., para. 35). As shown in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, of this total amount programmed, $305.1 million represents contributions from the Foundation and $117.9 million represents contributions from other donors. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received updated information indicating that the total amount programmed as at 31 August 2002 amounted to $484.6 million, of which $20.5 million related to administrative support costs. The updated information provided to the Committee, including the status of cash transfers (by tranche) and the status of project implementation, is provided in the annex to the present report.

5. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General that a total of $111.9 million was programmed for 2001 as a result of the approvals related to the ninth and tenth funding rounds ($105.7 million) and intersessional requests ($6.2 million). Grants were approved for 55 projects for 2001, in the areas of population and women ($18.4 million), children's health ($32.2 million), peace, security and human rights ($19.2 million), environment ($36.8 million) and institution-building capacity ($5.2 million) (ibid., paras. 46–48 and annex). Section II of the report provides information on the programme areas.

6. In the area of monitoring and evaluation, the Advisory Committee notes that the strategy includes four different components so as to ensure the cost-effective and efficient achievement of the goals in each of the major programmes (ibid., paras. 33–37). However, during its exchange with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee noted the large number of reports involved. According to the report of the Secretary-General, in 2001, 137 annual progress reports were analysed (ibid., para. 36), among other monitoring activities, yet this total excludes quarterly reports for the 222 projects undertaken. **The Committee is of the opinion that the present process appears to be onerous and bureaucratic and that the time has come to assess the whole process and to streamline it. The Committee is of the opinion that it is necessary to analyse whether the reporting exercise has enabled UNFIP to become more focused, enabling it better to measure impact and to attain the objective indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 37). As indicated therein, compelling evidence of the impact of projects supported by UNFIP and the Foundation will be critical to generating additional resources and creating public-private partnerships in support of United Nations causes.**

7. **In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes and welcomes the focus in 2002 on evaluating clusters of projects designed to address a significant issue within a programme area (ibid.). Moreover, the Committee welcomes the utilization of a systems application in order to enhance the capacity of UNFIP to track project implementation and fund flows, thus streamlining the financial reporting modalities of its implementing partners (ibid., para. 51). More needs to be done, however, and the Committee looks forward to seeing evidence of progress in this regard in the next report on UNFIP.**

8. The Advisory Committee enquired about the recent volatility of the stock market and its possible effect on the donation. The Committee was informed that the donor's original pledge remained firm and that, in addition, the Foundation, in consultation with the United Nations, was considering how to strengthen its support to the United Nations through its advocacy and resource mobilization capacity. **The Committee requests that additional information be provided in this regard in the context of the next report to be submitted to the General Assembly**. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the continued commitment of the donor.

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Notes

[1] A/53/700, annex I.

Annex

Project implementation reports

Implementation report 1
United Nations Foundation/United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Status of cash transfers (by tranche) for the period from May 1998 to August 2002

(United States dollars)

Funding round/Foundation Board meeting date	*Number of projects*	*Grant allocations approved by the Foundation inclusive of programme support costs*	*1998–2002*		
			UNFIP requests to the Foundation	*Deposits to UNFIP*	*Remittances to implementing partners*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	20 915 000	20 915 000	20 915 000	20 915 000
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	31 991 665	30 436 286	30 436 286	30 334 341
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	32 350 261	29 613 892	29 613 868	29 604 494
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	91 395 995	88 148 534	88 148 534	87 506 369
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	58 961 117	49 890 461	49 890 461	49 550 815
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 993 777	10 472 315	10 079 195	10 079 195
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	41 283 199	25 726 604	25 726 604	24 996 134
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	16 858 843	11 430 787	11 229 435	11 229 435
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	88 028 698	63 374 059	58 039 816	58 039 816
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	35 083 553	10 508 056	7 180 993	7 110 993
Tranche 11/July 2002	16	26 570 000	700 000	250 000	250 000
Intersessional/1999–2002	16	25 209 917	17 035 786	16 637 897	16 247 660
Total	**246**	**484 642 025**	**358 251 780**	**348 148 089**	**345 864 252**

Implementation report 2
United Nations Foundation/United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Summary status of project implementation (by tranche) for the period from May 1998 to July 2002 based on expenditure information received by 31 August 2002

(United States dollars)

				1998–2002		
Funding round/ Foundation Board meeting date	*Number of projects*	*Grant allocations approved by the Foundation*	*Projects approved by the Foundation /UNFIP[a]*	*Funding approved by UNFIP/ the Foundation*	*Expenditure reported by implementing partners*	*Rates of implementation[b] (percentage)*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	19 982 570	19 982 570	19 982 570	16 933 934	85
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	30 641 641	30 641 641	30 641 641	26 055 686	85
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	30 783 032	30 783 032	30 783 032	21 307 249	69
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	87 169 039	87 169 039	86 583 906	78 483 063	91
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	56 231 390	56 231 390	54 205 510	32 328 057	60
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 235 225	15 235 225	13 082 030	4 628 936	35
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	39 383 564	39 383 564	31 056 681	13 617 239	44
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	16 075 733	16 075 733	12 011 846	2 163 298	18
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	84 173 966	67 375 720	55 426 921	33 302 513	60
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	33 600 535	15 612 817	8 776 373	1 060 582	12
Tranche 11/July 2002	16	26 510 476	700 000	-	-	0
Intersessional/1999–2002	16	24 318 274	11 304 903	9 003 516	4 594 182	51
Total	**246**	**464 105 444**	**390 495 633**	**351 554 026**	**234 474 739**	**67**
Administrative support costs		20 536 574	18 609 583	17 043 864	12 751 619	N/A
Grand total	**246**	**484 642 018**	**409 105 216**	**368 597 890**	**247 226 358**	**N/A**

[a] This column includes the amounts of project budgets approved by UNFIP.

[b] The formula for the implementation rate is the ratio of expenditures to approved funding.

Document A/57/7/Add.7

Eighth report

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2003

[17 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/4) on a request for a subvention of 227,600 United States dollars to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) resulting from the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2003. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in the note, the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2002–2003,[1] under section 4, Disarmament, contains a provision for $447,100 for the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR (ibid., para. 3). Of that amount, $219,500 has been utilized for 2002, leaving a balance of $227,600 for 2003.

3. In the report of the Director of UNIDIR on the proposed programme of work and budget of the Institute for the biennium 2002–2003, the Director indicates that the subvention, which is used to cover the costs of the Director and administration, is important not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute (A/57/302, para. 5).

4. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee approve the request of $227,600 for UNIDIR for 2003.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.8

Ninth report

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[17 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (A/57/467). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General was submitted in accordance with the procedures outlined in its report on building construction.[1] In this regard, the letter dated 10 September 2002 from the Chairman of the Committee to the Secretary-General is provided in the annex to the present report. As indicated therein, the Committee concurred with the submission to the General Assembly of the proposal for construction of a new office building at the United Nations compound in Santiago.

3. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the proposal for additional space results from the need to relocate 63 staff who currently occupy 608 square metres (m^2) of temporary office space that does not comply with safety requirements or provide adequate working conditions (ibid., para. 11). The proposed net addition of office space of 733 m^2 in the form of three modules would complete the E-shaped formation of the North Building. The proposed new space would allow 615 m^2 for the relocation of the 63 staff members and 118 m^2 of swing space. As further indicated in the report, this is based on standard office space requirements per individual, as recommended by the Advisory Committee[2] and approved by the General Assembly in its decision 31/425 of 22 December 1976 (ibid., para. 13).

4. The total cost of the construction amounts to 736,900 United States dollars and is broken down in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General. The total duration is estimated at 14 months, including 5 months for the design, cost plan preparation, construction bidding and contract finalization stages, plus 9 months for the mobilization and construction stages (ibid., para. 14). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that ECLAC had carried out a pre-feasibility study in order to fine-tune the costs presented.

5. In connection with the administrative and funding arrangements for the proposed construction project (ibid., paras. 20–23), the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General is proposing to fund the project from the available unutilized balance of the construction-in-progress account, which amounted to $8,753,000 as at 30 June 2002 as a result of additional income from investments. In view of the approved utilization of an amount of $7,711,800 for the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (see General Assembly resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002), the unutilized balance of the construction-in-progress account amounts to $1,041,200.

6. The Advisory Committee further enquired as to the central management responsibility, which would be carried out by the Office of Central Support Services at Headquarters. The Committee was informed that since the ECLAC project was relatively small and well-defined, with a design derived from previously built modules already available, it would only require broad oversight by the Office to ensure observance of United Nations construction standards and procedures. The existing staff of the Planning, Design and Overseas Properties Section of the Facilities Management Division of the Office, therefore, can easily absorb the additional workload.

7. **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the construction of the three new modules, with an additional gross space of 733 m^2, as an extension to the North Building at the United Nations compound in Santiago. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly authorize the funding of the total estimated cost of $736,900 from the available balance of the construction-in-progress account.**

Notes

[1] A/36/643.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/31/8 and Add.1–26), document A/31/8/Add.4.

Annex

Letter dated 10 September 2002 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Secretary-General

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General dated 24 June 2002 on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, (A/CN.1/R.1199). The Advisory Committee notes that the submission is in line with the procedures outlined in the report of the Committee (A/36/643), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/237 of 21 December 1982, regarding the need to inform the Committee following the determination of the Secretary-General of the need for a new construction or major alterations of existing premises.

As indicated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General, the proposal for additional space results from the need to relocate 63 staff who currently occupy temporary office space which does not comply with safety requirements or provide adequate working conditions. The proposed net addition of 733 square metres (m^2), in the form of three modules, would complete the E-shaped formation of the North Building, allowing for 615 m^2 for the relocation of the existing staff and for a remaining 118 m^2 of swing space.

The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report of the Secretary-General , that the total cost for the construction of the extension to the North Building is expected to amount to 736,900 United States dollars, as broken down in paragraph 16 of the report, and that the total duration of the construction is estimated at 14 months, including 5 months for the design, cost plan preparation, construction bidding exercise, and contract finalization stages, plus 9 months for the mobilization and construction stages.

The Advisory Committee further notes that the Secretary-General is proposing to fund the new construction project in Santiago from the available unutilized balance of the construction-in-progress account which, as indicated in paragraph 23 of the report, amounted to $8,558,000[a] as at 31 December 2001 as a result of additional investment income. In view of the approved utilization of an amount of $7,711,800 for the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (see General Assembly resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002), the unutilized balance of the construction-in-progress account therefore amounts to $846,200.

In the circumstances, and taking into account the information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General during the hearings conducted by the Advisory Committee on the subject, as well as the pre-feasibility study carried out by ECLAC in order to fine-tune the costs involved, the Committee concurs with the intention of the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to the General Assembly for the construction of three new modules with an additional space capacity of 733 m^2 as an extension to the North Building at ECLAC. The Committee further concurs with the proposal to fund the estimated costs of $736,900 from the available balance of the construction-in-progress account in view of the assurances received that the final budgeted figures would not exceed the current estimates.

(*Signed*) C. S. M. **Mselle**
Chairman

[a] Orally corrected from $8,453,000 during the hearings.

Document A/57/7/Add.9

Tenth report

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2002

[23 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/57/450 and Corr.1 and 2) on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for 2002,[1] in particular their implications for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2002–2003. The Advisory Committee has confined its consideration of financial implications to those recommendations of ICSC which are dealt with in the statement by the Secretary-General.

2. In paragraph 23 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the requirements under the regular budget resulting from the recommendations and decisions of ICSC have been estimated at 25,064,900 United States dollars and that such requirements would be taken into consideration when computing the first performance report for the biennium 2002–2003, bearing in mind any decisions taken by the General Assembly.

3. ICSC has recommended a differentiated real salary increase of the base/floor salary scale to address the low level of the net remuneration margin at the upper grades of the scale and to restore the overall level of the margin to the midpoint of 115. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, total financial implications for the United Nations regular budget for a 10-month period from 1 March to 31 December 2003 have been estimated at $20,434,100. This figure comprises $19,779,100 for the net remuneration increase, $463,300 in respect of mobility/hardship allowance and $191,700 in respect of the scale of separation payments. The Advisory Committee was informed that, should the General Assembly adopt the recommendation of ICSC for a differentiated real salary increase for Professional staff and higher categories, the $19.8 million for the net remuneration increase would be reflected in the performance report under salaries and allowances and the balance under common staff costs (see para. 7 below).

4. As indicated in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, ICSC conducted surveys of best prevailing conditions of service for General Service and related categories of staff in Vienna and Geneva and the Language Teacher category in Geneva. The Vienna survey was carried out in April 2002 and the Geneva survey was carried out in January 2002. ICSC recommended new salary scales and increased rates for dependency allowances for both Vienna and Geneva. The revised rates have been implemented for Vienna effective April 2002 and for Geneva effective January 2002. The financial implications for the regular budget for the biennium 2002–2003 are estimated at $689,300 for Vienna for the 21-month period from 1 April 2002 to 31 December 2003 and $3,232,300 for Geneva for the 24-month period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003.

5. As indicated in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, following its review of the level of hazard pay, ICSC decided to maintain the current level for international staff and to increase the level for locally recruited staff from 20 to 30 per cent of the midpoint of local base salary scales, effective 1 January 2003. The annual financial implications for the regular budget are estimated at $342,500.

6. As a result of its review of the education grant, ICSC recommended increases in the maximum admissible expenditure level and in boarding costs. As indicated in paragraph 21 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the annual financial implications for the United Nations regular budget are estimated at $366,700.

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the performance report would clearly indicate requirements which relate to the recommendations of the Commission. **The Committee has no technical objection to the estimates of requirements under the regular budget resulting from the recommendations and decisions of ICSC.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/57/30).

Document A/57/7/Add.10

Eleventh report

Experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO in its decision 53/411 B

[22 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/14) on the experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decision 55/483 of 14 June 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the request of the Advisory Committee[1] that information be provided on experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements for ITC, as set out by the Assembly in its decision 53/411 B.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General that the revised administrative arrangements for ITC reflect the will of the governing bodies of both the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to maintain their control and authority in respect of their share of resources assigned to ITC (ibid., para. 12).

4. The United Nations and WTO contribute jointly and equally to the financing of the regular budget of ITC. There is a section of the United Nations biennial programme budget and a section of the WTO annual regular budget for ITC. As such, ITC is subject to the different budgetary cycles and review processes of the two parent organizations (ibid., para. 2). The Advisory Committee notes that the new arrangements became effective for the biennium 2000–2001 (ibid., para. 7).

5. The Advisory Committee also notes that the process for the approval of the ITC component of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 and of the annual budgets of WTO for 2002 and 2003 resulted in numerous documents having to be produced by ITC and translated and distributed by the United Nations and WTO. The Committee further notes that experience has demonstrated that the revised arrangements have not done away with the need for ITC to prepare two separate budget documents (ibid., para. 8).

6. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is indicated in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with ITC and WTO for a joint review of the arrangements.** The Committee will submit its further comments on the subject in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Assembly through the Committee on the proposals for a possible reduction in the number of budgetary documents and simplification of the current approval process of the ITC programme budget.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/55/7 and Add.1–10), document A/55/7/Add.10, para. 6.

Document A/57/7/Add.11

Twelfth report

Inter-organizational security measures: framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system

[25 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Inter-organizational security measures: framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system" (A/57/365). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General and further clarified by the representatives of the Secretary-General, that the report was prepared in consultation with the specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system during meetings of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, and was approved by the High-level Committee on Management in accordance with its mandate to approve matters related to administrative and budgetary questions on behalf of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General and the Inter-Agency Security Management Network for the well-prepared and detailed report.

3. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the new mechanism of accountability and responsibility in the area of field security outlined in the report would be implemented within currently authorized resources. **The Committee requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the capacity in the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator to monitor effectively the activities outlined in the report.**

4. **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of adequate training in the process of implementing the new mechanism and welcomes the emphasis placed on training in the report of the Secretary-General** (ibid., paras. 25–33).

5. The Advisory Committee enquired whether the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was covered in the new mechanism of accountability and responsibility in the area of field security. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly on the issue in the context of section VIII, paragraph 4, of Assembly resolution 56/255 of 24 December 2001, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct an evaluation of the United Nations security system, including the new security arrangements and the relationship and interaction between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, and to report his findings and recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. **The Committee stresses the importance of the above-mentioned evaluation and urges its completion as soon as possible.**

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that a framework of cooperation on security issues with non-governmental organizations was being worked out. **The Committee welcomes this development and emphasizes the importance of devising a system for charging parties other than immediate partners in the United Nations security management system for services.**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that, of the 100 posts authorized for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator in the field, 98 had been filled. Out of a total of 38 posts approved for Headquarters, 22 have been filled thus far, including 3 of the 7 posts financed under the support account for peacekeeping operations. The Committee was informed that, owing to a

lack of office space, recruitment was being held back at Headquarters and that new, larger office facilities were expected to be available for the Coordinator in November 2002.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the mechanism of accountability and responsibility in the area of field security which is now in place. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to transmit his report to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency so that it may be made available to the legislative bodies of those specialized agencies and the Agency.**

Document A/57/7/Add.12

Thirteenth report

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002

[25 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 (A/C.5/57/13 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. As indicated in paragraph 19 of the report of the Secretary-General, the estimated requirements for the biennium 2002–2003 arising from the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 amount to 1,866,300 United States dollars, of which $1,266,400 could be absorbed, leaving a requirement for appropriation of $599,900. The estimated additional requirements relate to Economic and Social Council decision 2002/224 on the resumed 2002 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations; decision 2002/257 on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; decision 2002/270 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; decision 2002/281 on the organization of the work of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights; and decision 2002/285 on the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

3. The Advisory Committee notes the descriptions of the Economic and Social Council decisions provided in the report of the Secretary-General and the explanations of additional requirements arising from those decisions. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General, such additional expenditures are to be dealt with in the context of the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 for the operation of the contingency fund. In accordance with those procedures, the Secretary-General will be presenting a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to the Assembly prior to the conclusion of the first part of its fifty-seventh session. The Committee will revert to this matter in the context of its consideration of that statement.

Document A/57/7/Add.13

Fourteenth report

Strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat

[25 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat and the addenda thereto (A/57/152 and Corr.1, and Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.2). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make proposals to strengthen the Terrorism Prevention Branch at the United Nations Office at Vienna in order to enable it to carry out its mandate as approved by the Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly for its consideration.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General was initially submitted under item 102 of the provisional agenda (Crime prevention and criminal justice). Corrigenda were subsequently issued to the report of the Secretary-General, submitting the report under agenda item 112 (Programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003). The Committee also notes that on 10 October 2002, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.10 entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity".

4. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/152 and Corr.1) provides a brief summary of the substantive, organizational and programmatic aspects of the activities related to the prevention and combat of terrorism (ibid., sect. II), and proposals for a strengthened programme of work for fulfilling the expanded mandates (ibid., sect. IV, paras. 18–22). The focus is on the provision of assistance to Member States, upon request, for ratifying and implementing the 12 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. In this connection, the Committee notes the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005, as contained in paragraph 12.3 (*f*), under strategy for achieving the objectives, paragraph 12.7 (*e*), under expected accomplishments and paragraph 12.8 (*b*), under indicators of achievement.[1]

5. The Advisory Committee also notes that the resources included in the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 provide for two Professional posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) and for consultants, contractual services, official travel of staff and printing. It further notes that the additional resources proposed by the Secretary-General to strengthen the Terrorism Prevention Branch for 2003 amount to 563,800 United States dollars. The breakdown of cost requirements is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/152/Add.2).

6. The Advisory Committee notes the course of action set out in paragraph 2 of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.). As indicated therein, should the General Assembly approve the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, additional costs amounting to $619,400, inclusive of staff assessment requirements, would arise, chargeable to the contingency fund, pursuant to the provisions of Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

7. **Rather than proceed in the manner proposed by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends that proposals for additional resources, including posts, be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005.**

8. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that, if the course of action it is recommending is followed, it would mean that recruitment against such posts as may be approved by the General Assembly (in December 2003) for the biennium 2004–2005, might not be completed until near the end of 2004. In order to expedite this process, the Secretary-General could initiate the recruitment process during 2003, on the understanding that the candidates would be informed that the availability of the posts in question would be subject to the decision to be taken by the Assembly in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005. In addition, the Secretary-General could, subject to availability of funds for the biennium 2002–2003, recruit staff on a temporary basis for 2003, on the understanding that the continuation of their functions, beyond 31 December 2003, would be subject to the approval by the Assembly of the related resources for the biennium 2004–2005.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/57/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

Document A/57/7/Add.14

Fifteenth report

Conversion into established posts of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

Cases in which incumbents of posts are being paid at a level other than the one provided for the post

Presentation of estimates of staff assessment

Additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations

Comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat

Interim report on results-based budgeting for the biennium 2002–2003

[29 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on conversion into established posts of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 (A/57/473); cases in which incumbents of posts are being paid at a level other than the one provided for the post (A/57/466); presentation of estimates of staff assessment (A/57/464); additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations (A/57/471); comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat (A/57/483); and interim report on results-based budgeting for the biennium 2002–2003 (A/57/478). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

I. Conversion into established posts of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/473) was submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 for specific proposals for the conversion of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, into established posts wherever that would measurably lead to higher efficiency and better quality of services. The Advisory Committee notes that it is the intention of the Secretary-General to evaluate the utilization of the temporary assistance resources before proposals are made for the conversion of such resources to established posts and that, should the evaluation support the conversion of resources, the necessary recommendations could be made in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 (ibid., para. 3).

3. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

II. Cases in which incumbents of posts are being paid at a level other than the one provided for the post

4. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/466) is submitted in response to a request contained in General Assembly resolution 56/253. The Advisory Committee notes that, as at 1 September 2002, there were 155 regular budget posts across all budget sections encumbered by staff whose personal grades were lower than the level of the occupied post. According to the Secretariat, this occurrence is not unusual, and it reflects managerial decisions by the heads of departments and offices to place, for a limited period of time, staff with sufficient qualifications and experience against the vacant posts, pending the completion of recruitment or the placement of staff against those posts in accordance with the procedures of the staff selection system (ibid., para. 3).

5. In addition, the Advisory Committee notes that at the time of the review, one case of a post encumbered by a staff member whose personal grade was higher than the budgeted level of the post had also been identified. It was explained that the case was exceptional, reflecting the decision of the Secretary-General within his prerogatives and responsibilities as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization under the Charter of the United Nations (ibid., paras. 4 and 5).

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

III. Presentation of estimates of staff assessment

7. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/464) was submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on options in regard to the format currently used for the presentation of estimates, gross and net, of staff assessment, with a view to enhancing comparability with other organizations of the United Nations system.

8. The report contains an analysis of the current arrangements in use for staff assessment within the organizations of the United Nations system (ibid., paras. 6–10). According to the Secretary-General, these arrangements may be grouped into three broad categories, as follows: (*a*) organizations with a budgetary presentation on a net basis, with staff assessment added as an additional line item to arrive at a total budget or total appropriation on a gross basis, and with offsetting credits under tax equalization fund arrangements; (*b*) organizations with a budgetary presentation and total appropriation on a net basis, with reimbursements received under a tax reimbursement agreement; and (*c*) organizations with a budgetary presentation on a gross basis at the section level (that is, staff costs under each budget section include any applicable taxes to be paid for staff members), with no reimbursement arrangements with member States in respect of taxes.

9. **The Advisory Committee shares the view of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 10) that, given the different arrangements in use at present throughout the United Nations system, a change in presentation from the format currently followed by the United Nations would not enhance overall comparability. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

IV. Additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations

10. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/471) was submitted pursuant to paragraph 44 of General Assembly resolution 56/253, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit an updated study on a comprehensive solution to the problem of additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations, taking into account Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986. The report recalls much of the earlier reviews of the issue of additional

expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations and provides an updated study, taking into account the fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation experienced in recent years. The report also includes information previously recommended by the Advisory Committee for inclusion in subsequent reports on the subject.

11. The Advisory Committee notes from the report that the information contained therein did not give rise to any new solutions to the problem of additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations and that many of the earlier reviews and analyses on the subject remained relevant to the issue (ibid., para. 19).

12. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

V. Comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat

13. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/483) is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, in which the Secretary-General was requested to undertake a comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat, taking into account the introduction of new technology, and to make proposals in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 to address the top-heavy post structure of the Organization. In its resolution 56/253, the Assembly noted with concern that the requested comprehensive review had not been submitted and reiterated that the review should be submitted to it at its fifty-seventh session.

14. The Advisory Committee notes the view of the Secretary-General that the main conclusion that could be drawn from the comprehensive review was that the current post structure and distribution of posts in the Secretariat did not indicate any apparent anomalies that could be characterized as top-heaviness of the Secretariat structure vis-à-vis comparative post structures in other international organizations.

15. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the post structure of the Secretariat; the Committee intends to use this information in the context of consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

VI. Interim report on results-based budgeting for the biennium 2002–2003

16. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/478) was submitted in response to the request contained in paragraph 153 of General Assembly resolution 56/253. In the course of its review, the Advisory Committee also had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the implementation of all provisions of Assembly resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000 on results-based budgeting (A/57/474).

17. The Secretary-General indicated that the implementation of results-based budgeting had prompted managers to take a closer look at the raison d'être of their programmes, particularly in terms of the problems to be addressed, and to systematically track information on the progress made towards solving those problems. All Departments had acknowledged and welcomed the need for a change in the management culture by looking beyond the delivery of outputs and services and focusing more on the results of their work (A/57/478, para. 55).

18. The Advisory Committee will follow up and present its views on the implementation of results-based budgeting in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Document A/57/7/Add.15

Sixteenth report

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

[29 October 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (A/57/479). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/208 of 21 December 2001, in which the Secretary-General was requested to clarify why UNITAR did not benefit from rental rates and maintenance costs similar to those enjoyed by other organizations affiliated with the United Nations, such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and further requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals on how to waive or reduce the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to UNITAR with a view to alleviating its current financial difficulties, which were aggravated by the practice of charging commercial rates.

3. UNITAR has been charged rent by the United Nations for premises it has occupied in Geneva since 1 January 1989 and in New York since 1 October 1996 (ibid., para. 3).

4. In accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 47/227 of 8 April 1993, the UNITAR building in New York was transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of UNITAR's debt and coverage of its financial obligations for 1992 in the amount of 15,989,000 United States dollars.[1] In accordance with the same resolution, in the biennium 1998–1999 the amount of $283,215, consisting of negative balances on special-purpose grant projects and related to activities undertaken before 1992, was written off against United Nations reserves.

5. The Advisory Committee notes that UNITAR has been able to continue its existing activities with no deficit and to expand its activities, operating exclusively on voluntary contributions and special-purpose grants. The Committee also notes that the analysis of the financial situation of the UNITAR General Fund shows that UNITAR was in a position to continue paying for rent and maintenance, from its own resources, as it had done for the period from 1994 to 1998 (ibid., para. 12).

6. The total annual requirements for rent and the maintenance of office space in New York and Geneva amount to $112,482. With the addition of messenger, security, shuttle and cleaning services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva (amounting to $34,000 per year), annual requirements for UNITAR would amount to $146,482 (or $293,000 biennially). Current unpaid bills as at 30 September 2002 amount to $310,974, consisting of $270,869 owed to the United Nations and $40,105 to the Fondation immobilière pour organisations internationales, which manages the building in Geneva (ibid., para. 15).

7. As also indicated in the report, UNIDIR and UNRISD enjoy benefits from reduced rental rates and maintenance costs (ibid., para. 16).

8. With regard to UNIDIR, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, UNIDIR receives a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute. UNIDIR is charged a rate of 5 per cent by the United Nations for administrative and support costs for the financial services provided to it by the United Nations Office at Geneva (ibid., para. 17).

9. In connection with UNRISD, the Advisory Committee notes that UNRISD is accommodated free of charge and that it pays for programme support at the reduced rate of 8 per cent (ibid., para. 18).

10. The Advisory Committee also notes that the Secretariat is not in a position to propose a waiver of the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to UNITAR, without the express decision of the General Assembly (ibid., para. 19).

11. Should the General Assembly decide that UNITAR should be provided with office space by the United Nations on a rent-free and maintenance-free basis, an additional provision of $293,000 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 27, Management and central support services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[2] This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted by the Secretary-General in December 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

Notes

[1] See A/C.5/47/82.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.16

Seventeenth report

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003

[27 November 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 (A/57/616). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. In accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, the performance report identifies adjustments required owing to variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The performance report also takes into account the additional mandates that the Assembly and the Security Council approved after the appropriation of the programme budget, unforeseen and extraordinary items that could not be deferred to the second year of the biennium and decisions of policy-making organs that, in the view of the Secretary-General, are best dealt with in the context of the first performance report.

3. **The Advisory Committee intends to consider, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, appropriate changes to the performance report in the light of the development of results-based budgeting.**

4. The estimated revised requirements under the expenditure sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 amount to 2,914,407,800 United States dollars, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the performance report. These provide for an increase of $215,140,000 compared with the total appropriation of $2,699,267,800 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/254 A of 24 December 2001 and resolutions 56/274 B and 56/286 of 27 June 2002. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the report, during the current session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General has also issued, or is about to issue, revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications in response to draft resolutions considered by the Main Committees. These amounts are being handled outside the first performance report but will have an impact on the level of the revised appropriations. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, of the updated estimates of these amounts, which are reproduced in annex I to the present report. Under the procedures for the operation of the contingency fund (Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987), the Secretary-General will be submitting, in December 2002, a consolidated statement of all revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications considered thus far by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session in respect of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.

5. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 5 of the performance report, the increase of $215,140,000 in expenditures reflects the impact of the following: (*a*) additional requirements of $12,872,300 under unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in respect of peace and security, the International Court of Justice and inter-organizational security measures in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/256 of 24 December 2001; (*b*) additional requirements of $88,969,900 resulting from decisions of policy-making organs, including special political missions; and (*c*) additional requirements of $113,297,800 related to variations in budgetary assumptions, including changes in exchange rates ($33,764,200), changes in inflation assumptions ($28,028,700), adjustments to standard salary costs ($4,416,500), vacancies ($20,411,600) and the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission on net remuneration ($26,676,800).

6. Information on the additional requirements of $12,872,300 resulting from unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, which fall under the terms of General Assembly resolution 56/256, is contained in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the performance report. Of the total of $12,872,300, commitments were entered into in the following amounts: (*a*) $4,448,300 certified by the Secretary-General as relating to the maintenance of peace and security; (*b*) $8,086,400 concurred by the Advisory Committee in respect of decisions by the Security Council; (*c*) $329,300 certified by the President of the International Court of Justice as relating to unforeseen expenses in respect of the Court; and (*d*) $8,300 for inter-organizational security measures.

7. Paragraphs 10 to 25 of the performance report provide an explanation of the additional requirements of $88,969,900 related to decisions of policy-making organs. These include amounts related to special political missions established by the Security Council ($77,211,200), conference-servicing support requirements for the Counter-Terrorism Committee ($11,143,200) and requirements related to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 56/254 D, 56/266 and 56/272 of 27 March 2002 concerning the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and adjustment to the level of honorariums, respectively ($615,500).

8. As indicated in paragraph 11 of the performance report, the Secretary-General has submitted a separate report on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/C.5/57/23). The comments, observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in respect of the estimated requirements of the Secretary-General of $77,211,200 are set out in its report contained in document A/57/7/Add.17 below. **The Committee points out that the actual amounts that would be required during the current biennium will be known only after the General Assembly takes a decision on the matter.**

9. In connection with the estimated requirements of $11,143,200 for conference and central support services for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Advisory Committee observes from paragraph 18 of the performance report (A/57/616) that resource requirements for the Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2003 are projected at $5,662,800, compared with $5,480,400 for 2002, that is, a growth of $182,400. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the performance report should have provided sufficient justification for the assumption that the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee would continue in 2003 at a level comparable to the level reached during the current year.** The Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 10 of its report of 20 May 2002[1] it recommended that the General Assembly should invite the Security Council to ensure that the proceedings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and other subsidiary bodies of the Council that required conference servicing were conducted with due regard to the most efficient use of conference-servicing resources. As indicated in paragraph 16 of the performance report, the Council intends to review the structure and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee no later than 4 April 2003. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the estimated requirements for the Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2003 may need to be revised, as appropriate, in the light of the Security Council review.**

10. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 25 of the performance report that expenditures for public information activities for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in April 2002, amounted to $149,500, and that no additional appropriation has been requested at this stage. The Committee recalls that the question of the financing of the information campaign for the Second World Assembly was to be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the first performance report. **In the circumstances, the Committee does not concur in the procedure outlined in the last sentence of paragraph 25 of the performance report, by which the matter could be revisited in the context of the second performance report.**

11. Paragraphs 26 to 29 of the performance report provide information on the additional requirements of $33,764,200 resulting from exchange rate fluctuations. The Advisory Committee notes that the methodology used by the Secretary-General in recosting the impact of exchange rate fluctuations is in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee that the Secretary-General should use such operational rates of exchange in its recosting exercises as would allow for

the lowest estimates in each case.[2] Schedule 3 of the performance report provides detailed information on the operational rates of exchange in 2002 for all main duty stations. The Committee also notes that, as stated in paragraph 26 of the performance report, adjustments resulting from actual experience in 2003 will be reflected in the second performance report. Annexes II and III.A and B to the present report provide information on the exchange rate changes by duty station and the performance of the euro and the Swiss franc against the United States dollar, respectively.

12. Information on additional requirements of $8,028,700 resulting from the application of revised inflation rates is reflected in paragraphs 30 to 33 of the performance report. The revised rates are based on promulgated post adjustment multipliers, the latest available information on consumer price indices and actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31 of the report that, while the revised rates in non-post objects of expenditure are generally slightly lower than had been initially foreseen, the most significant exception relates to increased inflationary costs associated with after-service health insurance and general insurance. Schedules 1 and 2 of the performance report contain detailed information on the revised inflation rates for all main duty stations.

13. Paragraphs 34 to 36 of the performance report deal with the increased requirements of $4,416,500 attributable to adjustments to standard salary costs, which are also detailed in annex I.A to the report.

14. An explanation of the estimated additional requirements of $20,411,600 related to lower than budgeted vacancy rates is given in paragraphs 37 to 40 of the performance report. The Advisory Committee recalls that the average vacancy rates approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 were 6.5 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories and 3.1 per cent for General Service and related categories of staff. As indicated in paragraphs 38 and 39 of the performance report, the application of these rates to continuing posts, together with higher vacancy rates applied to new posts, results in an effective budgeted rate of 7.9 per cent for the Professional and higher categories and 4.2 per cent for the General Service and related categories. As indicated in the same two paragraphs, the 2002 vacancy rate realized amounted to 7.4 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories and 2.7 per cent for staff in the General Service and related categories. In this connection, the Committee recalls that in setting the vacancy rates applicable to the budget for the biennium 2002–2003, the Assembly stated in paragraph 56 of its resolution 56/253 that, "should the realized vacancy rates be lower than those budgeted, the General Assembly would provide additional resources, if required, in the first and/or second performance report, so as to preclude the need for any constraint on recruitment of staff". Annexes IV and V to the present report illustrate the development of vacancy rates during 2002 in the Professional and higher category of staff and in the General Service and related categories, respectively. Annex VI provides vacancy statistics by budget sections. **The Committee notes that in a number of sections, the vacancies are quite high. In future, a brief explanation should be provided.**

15. As indicated in paragraph 41 of the performance report, the estimated additional requirements of $26,676,800, which relate to the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2002,[3] were outlined in detail in the related statement of the Secretary-General (A/57/450 and Corr.1 and 2). **The Advisory Committee points out, in this connection, that the actual requirements resulting from the decisions and recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission will be known only after the decision of the General Assembly on this matter.**

16. Paragraphs 43 to 51 of the performance report (A/57/616) deal with "other issues", including the impact of the across-the-board reductions in the budgeted level of specific operational requirements for 2002–2003. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that this information is not complete, as it does not reflect the full impact of the reductions on approved activities of the Organization.**

17. Paragraphs 53 to 56 of the performance report deal with revised requirements under income sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003. As can be seen, an increase of $17,367,800 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, is offset in part by a decrease of $5,330,000 under income section 2, General income, and by a net decrease of $5,046,100 under income section 3, Services to the public. Annex IV to the performance report provides additional information on the revised estimates under income section 3. As indicated therein, several developments have had a profound effect on gross revenues, including a significant decrease in visitors to the Headquarters complex since September 2001, the decline in worldwide economic conditions and the introduction of euro-only stamps in 2002. The Advisory Committee notes that a number of measures are being taken to reduce the level of expenditures under income section 3. Such measures include, for example, the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of annex IV to the performance report to freeze a number of vacant posts in the United Nations Postal Administration.

18. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls its observation that **"in view of the continuing decline in income from the sale of stamps and even the potential for a loss, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need for a fundamental rethinking of the way this activity is run; in this connection, the possibility of outsourcing this activity to an enterprise specializing in the production and marketing of philatelic material should be explored."**[4]

19. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the revised estimates contained in the performance report of the Secretary-General subject to such adjustments as may be necessary as the result of its consideration of the estimates with regard to matters of which the Security Council is seized (see para. 8 above), the report of the International Civil Service Commission (see para. 15 above) and the consolidated statement of revised estimates and programme budget implications (see para. 4 above).**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/56/7/Add.1–11), document A/56/7/Add.11.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/51/7/Add.1–9), document A/51/7/Add.6, para. 5.

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/57/30).

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), chap. II.B, para. IS3.8.

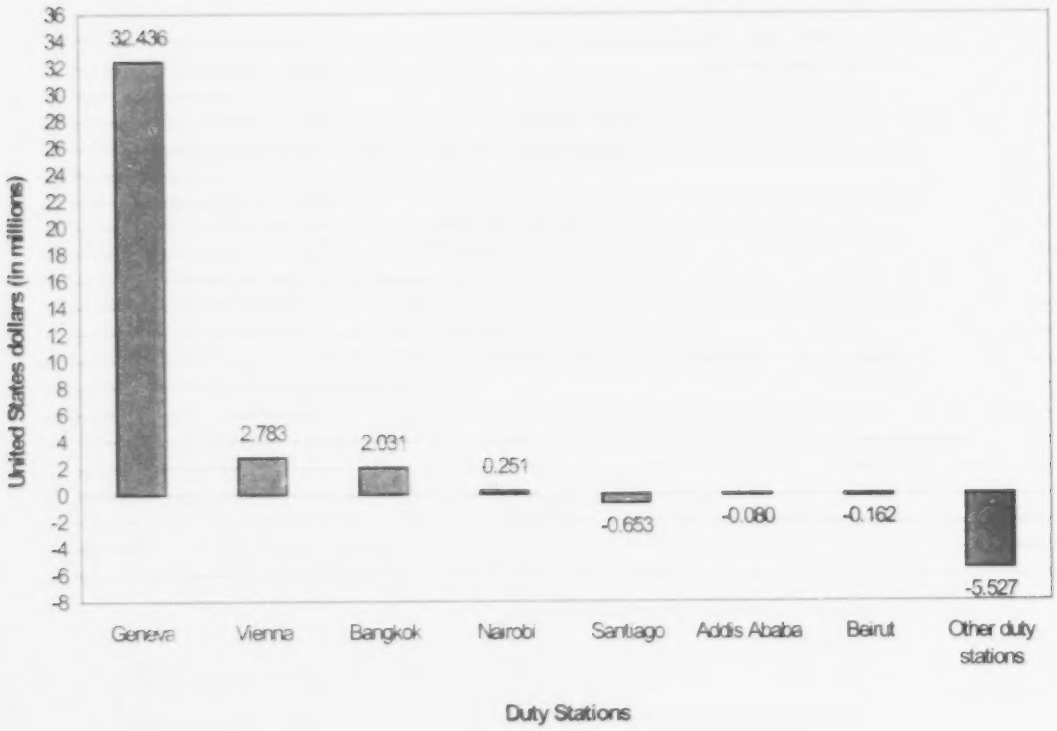
Annex I

Updated list of estimates relating to statements of programme budget implications

	Appropriation requirements by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session	
	Statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates submitted	*As recommended by the Advisory Committee*
Potential charges to be made against the contingency fund		
Economic and Social Council revised estimates (A/C.5/57/13 and Corr.1)	599.9	599.9
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (A/C.5/57/26)	455.8	455.8
Khmer Rouge trials (A/C.3/57/L.87)	44.8	Not yet reviewed
INSTRAW (A/C.5/57/24)	500.0	Not yet reported
UNITAR (A/57/479)	152.7	152.7
Strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch (A/57/152 and Corr.1)	563.8	0.0
Strengthening the Department of Public Information web site (A/57/355)	1 297.5	0.0
Small island developing States (anticipated A/C.2/57/xx to be published)	-	-
Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (anticipated A/C.2/57/xx to be published)	-	-
Total estimates	**3 614.5**	
Estimates of programme budget implications relating to General Assembly-mandated special political missions		
(i) MINUGUA	12 800.0	Not yet reviewed
(ii) Central American peace process	224.3	Not yet reviewed
(iii) Situation of human rights in Myanmar	229.1	Not yet reviewed
Total estimates	**13 253.4**	

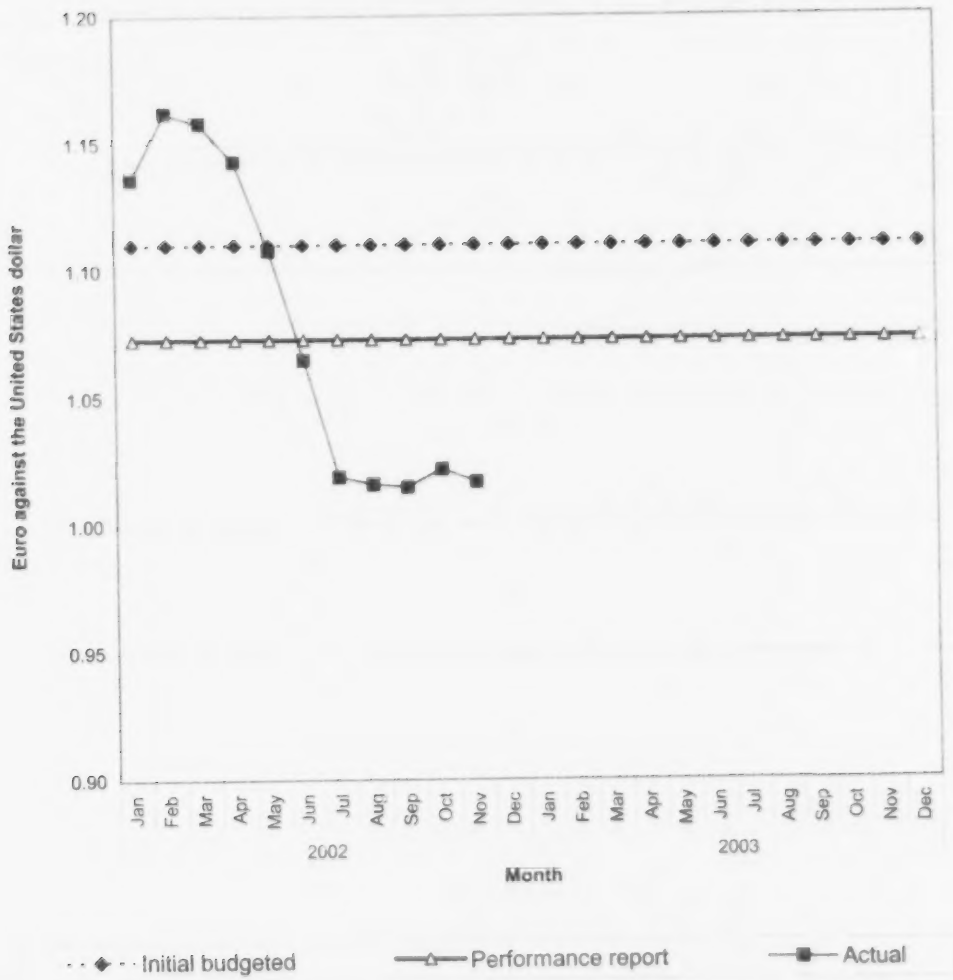
Annex II

Composition of exchange rate changes by duty station

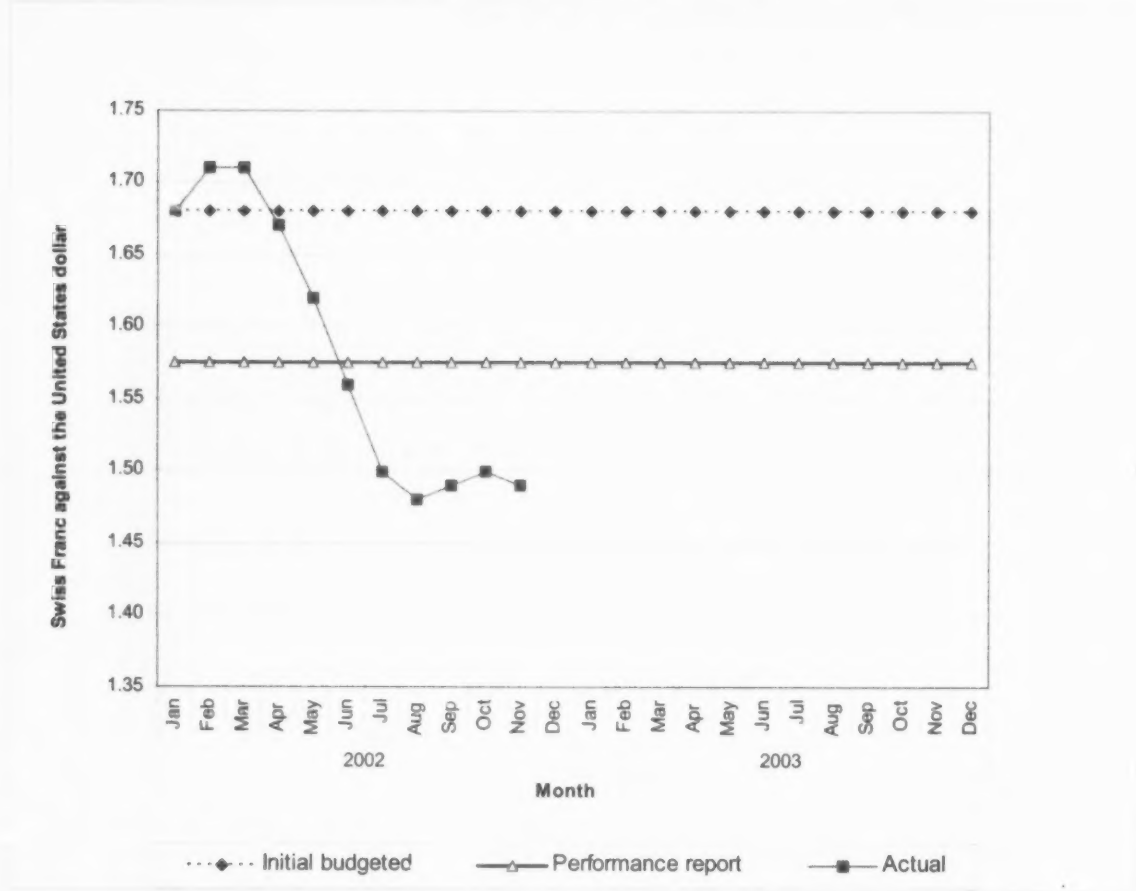


Annex III

A. Performance of the euro against the United States dollar



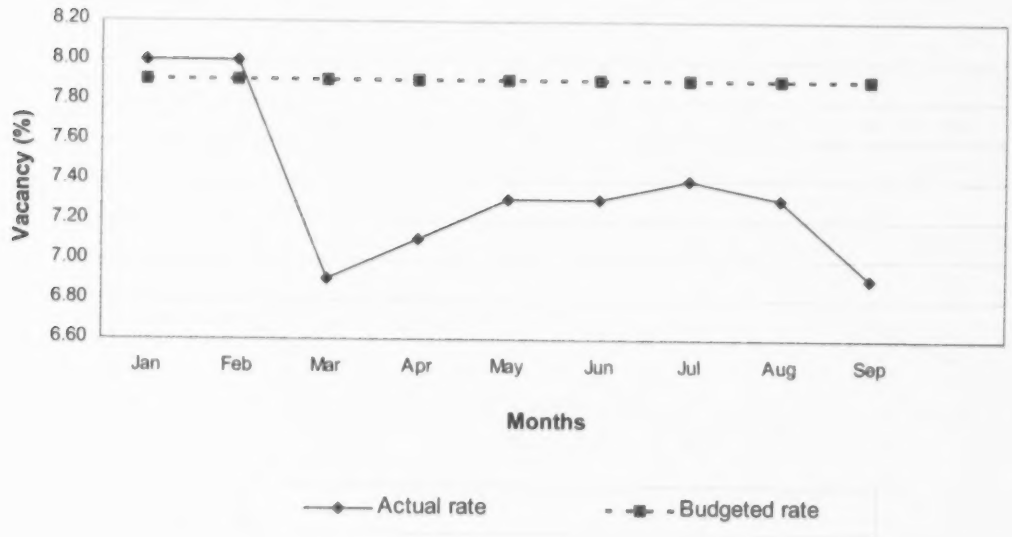
B. Performance of the Swiss franc against the United States dollar



Annex IV

Vacancy rates 2002: professional category

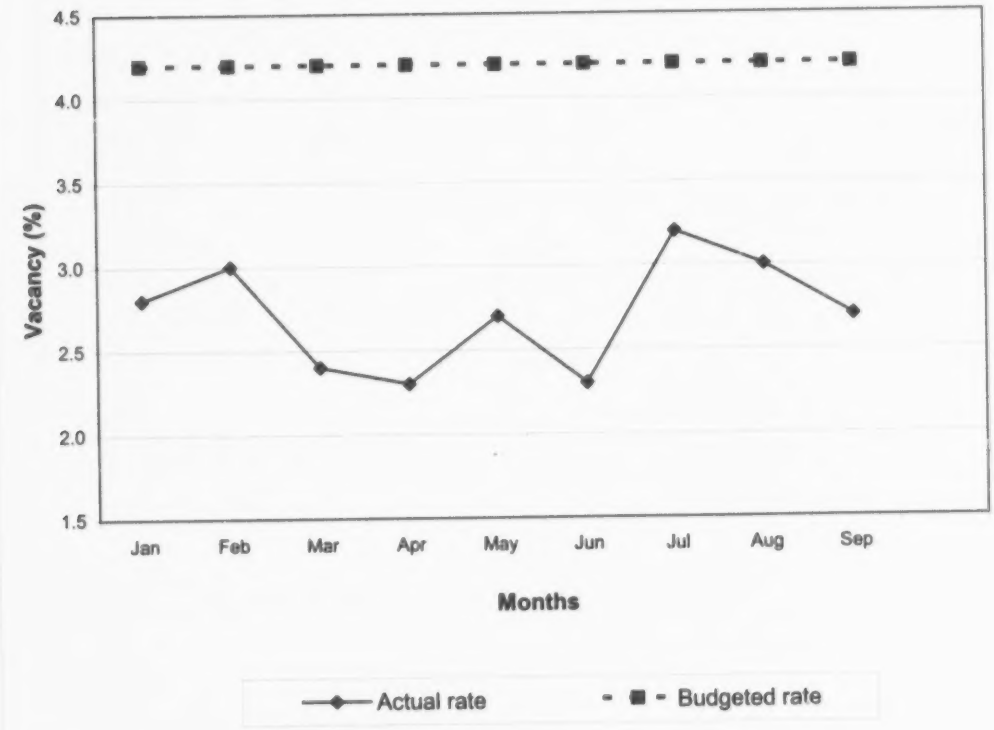
Budgeted and actual rates



Annex V

Vacancy rates 2002: general service category

Budgeted and actual rates



Annex VI

Vacancy statistics of authorized posts under the regular budget (by section)

As at 30 September 2002

Section		Professional			General Service			Total		
		Authorized	*Vacant*	*Rate*	*Authorized*	*Vacant*	*Rate*	*Authorized*	*Vacant*	*Rate*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	63	6	9.5	76	2	2.6	139	8	5.8
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	940	21	2.2	984	3	0.3	1 924	24	1.2
3.	Political affairs	136	9	6.6	115	5	4.3	251	14	5.6
4.	Disarmament	33	1	3.0	20	0	0.0	53	1	1.9
5.	Peacekeeping operations	44	6	13.6	310	18	5.8	354	24	6.8
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	15	6	40.0	5	0	0.0	20	6	30.0
7.	International Court of Justice	40	4	10.0	51	0	0.0	91	4	4.4
8.	Legal affairs	82	2	2.4	63	2	3.2	145	4	2.8
9.	Economic and social affairs	303	17	5.6	226	2	0.9	529	19	3.6
9A.	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States	9	5	55.6	4	1	25.0	13	6	46.2
10.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	14	2	14.3	9	0	0.0	23	2	8.7
11A.	Trade and development	226	13	5.8	167	7	4.2	393	20	5.1
12.	Environment	28	0	0.0	17	0	0.0	45	0	0.0
13.	Human settlements	46	3	6.5	25	0	0.0	71	3	4.2
14.	Crime prevention and criminal justice	22	0	0.0	7	0	0.0	29	0	0.0
15.	International drug control	49	0	0.0	24	0	0.0	73	0	0.0
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	222	58	26.1	350	24	6.9	572	82	14.3
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	175	10	5.7	297	8	2.7	472	18	3.8
18.	Economic development in Europe	119	4	3.4	79	1	1.3	198	5	2.5
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	186	15	8.1	307	19	6.2	493	34	6.9
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	106	12	11.3	164	4	2.4	270	16	5.9
22.	Human rights	109	14	12.8	57	1	1.8	166	15	9.0
23.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	2	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0.0
24.	Palestine refugees	94	17	18.1	11	0	0.0	105	17	16.2
25.	Humanitarian assistance	41	2	4.9	17	0	0.0	58	2	3.4
26.	Public information	280	11	3.9	474	8	1.7	754	19	2.5
27.	Management and central support services	374	26	7.0	1 285	36	2.8	1 659	62	3.7
28.	Internal oversight	61	1	1.6	30	1	3.3	91	2	2.2
	Subtotal	**3 819**	**265**	**6.9**	**5 174**	**142**	**2.7**	**8 993**	**407**	**4.5**
Income section 3	Services to the public	20	3	15.0	104	2	1.9	124	5	4.0
	Grand total	**3 839**	**268**	**7.0**	**5 278**	**144**	**2.7**	**9 117**	**412**	**4.5**

Document A/57/7/Add.17

Eighteenth report

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

[27 November 2002]
[Original: English]

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/C.5/57/23). During its consideration of the matter, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General presents estimated resource requirements for six peace-building or assistance missions, seven political offices or special representatives or envoys of the Secretary-General and six monitoring mechanisms or committees. Included for the first time are the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Panel of Experts on Somalia. As indicated in paragraph 2 and table 1 of the report, 6 of the 19 entities have mandates to operate until 31 December 2003, and the mandates of 12 of the others are expected to be extended. The estimates also include one political mission, namely, the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), whose mandate is not expected to be extended. Although they represent charges against the provision of 98,338,700 United States dollars for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, the United Nations Office in Somalia, the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar and the Central American peace process are not included in the report – the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the United Nations Office in Somalia because two-year budgets for them had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/274 A of 27 March 2002 for the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003, and MINUGUA, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar and the Central American peace process because extension of their mandates falls within the purview of the Assembly.

3. In order to provide a greater degree of predictability regarding the overall level of resource requirements for political missions for the balance of the biennium, the Secretary-General proposes, in paragraphs 3 to 5 of his report, the provision of appropriations in anticipation of the renewal of individual mandates along the lines of arrangements currently in place for peacekeeping operations. **The Advisory Committee agrees with this proposal, on the understanding that the related expenditure in this regard be subject to a valid mandate as decided upon by the competent legislative organ of the United Nations.**

4. As shown in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General, the total estimated requirements for the extension of the missions amounts to $82,764,400 net ($90,947,500 gross). Taking into account the estimated unencumbered balance of $13,736,300 anticipated to remain at the end of the current mandate periods, the additional amount requested in the report, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, totals $69,028,100 net ($77,211,200 gross). The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report, that all of the initial 2002–2003 appropriation of $98.3 million had been fully committed within the first six months of 2002. These funds were supplemented by additional appropriations of $14.7 million in June 2002 for the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and for UNAMA. In addition, the first performance report for the biennium 2002–2003 reports the use of a further $11.3 million, under the provisions of Assembly resolution 56/256 of 24 December 2001, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures, to provide for special political

missions in Angola, Liberia and Somalia. The Committee was informed that the total estimated requirements for special political missions for the biennium 2002–2003, including missions mandated by the Assembly, amounted to approximately $201 million. Upon request, the Committee was provided with a breakdown (see annex I to the present report).

II. General considerations

5. **Future reports should be comprehensive. They should include all missions already charged or to be charged to the provision for special political missions under the relevant sections of the programme budget. They should include charges arising from decisions of both the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as those resulting from recourse to provisions of the Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. The estimate for open-ended entities, such as monitoring mechanisms, expert groups or the Counter-Terrorism Committee, should be presented in the proposed programme budget and not through the report on estimates. Prior to approval of the proposed programme budget by the Assembly, the Secretary-General could update his estimates by indicating expired and/or new mandates.**

6. The comments of the Advisory Committee in its report of 4 March 2002[1] concerning presentation and the need for adequate justification of resource requirements remain valid. **While the Committee welcomes the changes made pursuant to its recommendations, it considers that further improvements are needed to enhance clarity, to fully justify requirements and to promote transparency and consistency in the presentation of estimates for various items of expenditure.**

7. In its report of 4 March 2002,[1] the Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of full justification of resource requirements and stressed that the provision of detailed information to the Security Council did not absolve Secretariat officials of responsibility for fully justifying the resources requested from the General Assembly. The Committee notes that the situation has not changed much. In paragraph 33 of the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.), for example, an additional post is requested "in view of the intensification of the peace process and the corresponding increase in workload". Such general statements often slow the work of the Committee, as they must be explained in hearings or elaborated on through additional information in writing. At a time when the Advisory Committee is pressed to complete its work to meet Fifth Committee deadlines, ferreting out additional information in writing often takes too much time.

8. For its consideration of the matter, the Advisory Committee was provided with the report of the Secretary-General, as well as a document containing supplementary information. In the report of the Secretary-General, the narrative for each mission is divided into two sections, dealing with (*a*) background, mandate and objective and (*b*) resource requirements. The supplementary information provided to the Committee is in much the same format as that of past reports of the Secretary-General. **The Committee requests that, in the future, the programme information and information on related resources, which are contained in the supplementary information, be incorporated into the main document. Future reports should also contain a general table arranged by object of expenditure. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee recommends that the supplementary information be provided to the Fifth Committee in a conference room paper, pending its publication in an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General. It is the intention of the Advisory Committee to follow up on the issue of how best to present the budgets of the missions concerned.**

9. **The Advisory Committee notes that the introduction to the report of the Secretary-General has been formulated along the lines requested by the Committee in paragraph 6 of its report of 4 March 2002.[1] In the future, however, an effort should be made to provide a more informative and analytical introduction, incorporating general thematic information on developments since the previous report regarding mandate implementation and plans for the future. In this connection, it would have been useful to include information on developments in such areas as those touched upon in the statement by the Under-Secretary-**

General for Political Affairs to the Committee on 25 February 2002,[2] and in the lessons learned and recommendations of the joint review mission on the United Nations post-conflict peace-building support offices, which were communicated to the Committee and included in paragraph 12 of its report.[1] For example, the Committee would have liked follow-up information on the implementation of paragraph 12 (*d*), which cites the "importance of an explicit delineation of responsibilities and functions between the peace-building office and the rest of the country team". Furthermore, issues of coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council on matters related to peace-building activities and programmes need to be addressed so as to ensure maximum efficiency and optimum use of resources.

10. **Moreover, in future reports, information on collaboration with other partners should be more specific, particularly as regards peace-building and assistance missions, such as those in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Tajikistan. It is essential to show how burden-sharing in respect of the cost of activities and services contributes to the implementation of mandates and the optimum use of resources.**

11. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in the future, results-based budgeting techniques would be used in the report. **The Committee welcomes this approach and requests that such presentations be made where appropriate, such as for peace-building and assistance missions.**

12. Staffing requirements for 2003, as shown in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, total 1,393 posts, as against 1,034 authorized for 2002. The largest changes in staffing relate to the conversion of 71 national officers and 275 local staff of UNAMA and 5 local staff of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia from local contractor status. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the staffing of the missions included eight United Nations Volunteers not shown in table 3, two in the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic and six in the United Nations Mission in Angola.

13. From the supplementary information provided, the Advisory Committee notes that of the estimated total requirements of $82,764,400 for special political missions, staff costs amount to approximately $56 million. Further, of the $56 million, staff costs for UNAMA account for $22.2 million. Upon request, the Committee was provided with a table showing budgeted vacancy factors and actual vacancy rates realized (see annex II to the present report). **Given the information on actual vacancy rates realized, as provided in the table, the Committee is of the opinion that the estimate for staff costs could be reduced. Accordingly, the Committee recommends the approval of an amount of $50 million under civilian personnel costs for the special political missions for the period up to December 2003. The Committee also requests that future reports contain a table similar to that in annex II to the present report and that an effort be made to explain the reasons for vacancies.**

14. The Advisory Committee notes that in the narratives of the two documents before it (namely the report of the Secretary-General and a document containing supplementary information) there are a number of references to human rights and public information activities. These are not always clearly identified in each of the missions in terms of programmes of activities and funding requirements. The additional information on human rights activities given to the Committee was not useful; it would have taken too much of the Committee's time to seek further clarification. **In future submissions, the Committee expects full identification of human rights and all other programmes and their related resources.**

15. The Advisory Committee received additional material on information activities, using the United Nations Office in Burundi as an example. **In the short time available, the Committee was not able to verify that adequate efforts have been made to avoid duplication of activities between, for example, public relations activities and confidence-building measures, or support for local peace initiatives and local institutions in connection with the Burundi ceasefire negotiations (see para. 41 below). The Committee recommends that the use of**

resources for information activities be reviewed with a view to ensuring a focused approach that is designed to promote the work of the United Nations in the mission concerned.

16. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that public information units are more appropriate for large missions. It is not cost-effective to set up mission information units for small missions, including monitoring mechanisms. Alternative approaches should be explored, including collaboration with advocacy mechanisms already in the area coming from the United Nations, its funds and programmes or from partners in the United Nations system.**

17. The Advisory Committee was informed that the two larger political missions, namely, UNAMA and the United Nations Mission in Angola, were now being led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. **The Advisory Committee welcomes this approach. In its opinion, support for these political missions will profit from economies of scale and the experience of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in managing peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Committee, the experience of the Department should be drawn upon in the preparation of budget submissions for the special political missions.**

18. Upon enquiry as to whether all the political missions use the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for logistical support, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs administered some of the smaller missions. **The Committee is of the view that their management might benefit from closer cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee recommends that the missions be treated in a consistent manner and that logistical support be provided through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraph 2.1 (*j*) of the bulletin of the Secretary-General on functions and organization of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations,[3] in which it is stated that the Department is to provide logistic and administrative support for peacekeeping operations, as well as other field offices and missions, as required.**

19. Support by the Department of Political Affairs appears to be somewhat scattered. **Support for the various committees and monitoring mechanisms should be streamlined and integrated in the Secretariat**. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information concerning Secretariat support for expert groups established by the Security Council in connection with sanctions and for existing sanctions regimes (see annexes III and IV, respectively, to the present report).

20. The Advisory Committee notes from this information that a total of 28 posts (12 Professional and 16 General Service) are proposed for the various mechanisms described in the annexes to the present report. Furthermore, the Committee recalls that under the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, the Security Council Affairs Division showed a staffing table of 50 regular budget posts for supporting the Council, including its sanctions activities. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the 17 staff shown in annex IV form part of the core staffing of the Department of Political Affairs/Security Council Affairs Division. The 11 positions shown in annex III are temporary positions valid only for the mandate periods of the monitoring mechanisms or panels. **The Committee questions the apparent practice of automatically establishing additional secretariat support capacity every time the Council establishes an entity. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the present arrangements to support the Council be reviewed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 with a view to streamlining these arrangements and, where appropriate, that the various support capacities be integrated so as to introduce efficiency into their activities and optimize the use of staff and other support services. Furthermore, the Committee expects a reduction in the number of posts shown in the annexes in view of the pending termination of some of the entities.**

21. The Advisory Committee enquired whether the deficiencies in assets management and control in special political missions, which were cited in the report of the Board of Auditors,[4] had

been eliminated. It was informed that, beyond the measures already taken by the missions and cited in the report of the Board of Auditors,[5] the following actions had been taken:

(*a*) United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA) assets were being transferred to UNAMA. All UNSMA property and records were being moved to Kabul. The estimated completion date for technical liquidation was 31 December 2002;

(*b*) Regarding UNAMA property control, the physical asset inspection and verification project had been completed at all locations occupied by UNAMA, including liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran and at the district offices in Faizabad and Maimana. The details on all non-expendable equipment had been recorded. Inventory records were currently being updated.

III. Illustrative comments on specific missions

A. Counter-Terrorism Committee

22. As indicated in paragraph 69 of the report of the Secretary-General (ibid.), the estimated requirements relating to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2003 amount to $2,909,500, of which $288,400 would be met from the estimated unencumbered balance at the end of December 2002. The Advisory Committee was informed that included in the estimates was an amount of $1,897,700 for the services of independent experts to review reports submitted by States pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, covering travel ($284,900) and fees ($1,612,800) for an aggregate period of 168 months, or the equivalent of 14 experts for one year. The Committee was also informed that the Secretariat maintained a roster of 130 experts from which 6 had already been recruited, and the intention was to recruit more of them shortly. The qualifications sought in candidates include expertise in such areas as the drafting of legislation, suppression of the financing of terrorist activities and of money-laundering, and immigration. Upon a request for further clarification of the composition and functions of the team of experts, the Committee was informed that one of its functions was to assist Governments in signing and ratifying conventions against terrorism.

23. **The Advisory Committee is concerned that there may be potential for duplication as regards assistance to Governments. In this connection, the Committee recalls that in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat, the focus of the Branch was identified as the provision of assistance to Member States, upon request, for ratifying and implementing the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism (see A/57/152 and Corr.1, summary). The Committee recommends that these arrangements be reviewed in order to avoid any possible overlap or duplication of functions.**

24. Upon a request for a timetable of activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Counter-Terrorism Committee approved the work programme on a quarterly basis and reported periodically to the Security Council on its activities. The current work programme is outlined in the annex to the letter dated 25 September 2002 from the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to the President of the Security Council.[6] Further, in the presidential statement of 8 October 2002,[7] the Council expressed its intention to review the structure and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee no later than 4 April 2003. **The Advisory Committee requests that the forthcoming review take fully into account its recommendations as contained in its report of 20 May 2002.[8]**

B. Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001) and extended pursuant to Council resolution 1390 (2002)

25. As indicated in paragraph 79 of the report of the Secretary-General, estimated requirements for the operation of the Monitoring Group to the end of 2003 amount to $2,106,000, of which $206,200 would be met from the estimated unencumbered balance expected to remain at the end

of the current mandate period. Overall requirements for the Group to the end of 2003 therefore amount to $1,899,800.

26. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the five members of the Monitoring Group, including the Chairman, who is a former staff member, were appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Security Council resolution 1363 (2001) of 30 July 2001. The Chairman is remunerated at the D-1 level as a staff member, while the other four members of the group are treated as consultants and experts, for whose services $913,300 is requested. A total of $356,200 is requested for the official travel of the Chairman and other members of the group. The Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 75 of the report of the Secretary-General, that, by its resolution 1363 (2001), the Council decided that the monitoring mechanism should include a monitoring group composed of up to 5 experts and a Sanctions Enforcement Support Team of up to 15 members.

27. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Chairman of the Monitoring Group was appointed as a staff member "for administrative purposes only". **The Committee questions this arrangement and expresses concern regarding its potential implications for the independence of the body and as a precedent for the future.**

C. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

28. As shown in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General, $50,546,800 was appropriated for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for the biennium 2002–2003, for the period up to 28 March 2003. As stated in paragraph 88 of that report, estimated requirements for the additional nine months to the end of 2003 amount to $37,932,500, of which $9,617,500 would be met from the estimated unencumbered balance at the end of the current mandate period, resulting in overall requirements of $28,315,000 for the Mission through the end of 2003.

29. As shown in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, an increase in Mission staffing is requested, from 615 in 2002 to 958 in 2003. The Advisory Committee notes that this proposal includes an increase in local staff from 343 to 618. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that many of the staff concerned were on special service agreements, which were to be converted to established positions. The supplementary information provided to the Committee contains a proposal, for example, to convert 167 security guards from contractual status to United Nations (local level) posts. While the Committee understands that the change represents merely a change in status, this does not obviate the need to fully justify any such changes in terms of programme needs. The Committee was informed that other staffing changes included the abolition of 16 posts by 1 April 2003 and the addition of 8 security posts for close protection, 4 information technology posts and 1 programme manager post, for a net decrease of 3 international posts. The Committee was informed that gratis personnel were currently carrying out the functions of the proposed security posts. **The information on gratis personnel should have been provided in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including an indication of the extent to which the acceptance of such personnel was in compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions on gratis personnel.**

30. As shown in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, the estimates include an increase in the number of national officers in the Mission from 40 to 111. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the national officers would be employed in the Mission as follows: 9 in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, 6 under pillar I, 8 under pillar II, 20 for technical services, 26 for administrative services and 42 for area offices. **In response to questions as to why the hiring of such a large number of national officers would not lead to a corresponding reduction in international staff, the Committee was informed that it was the ultimate goal of the exercise to reduce the number of international staff, but that it was a phased process involving developing the capacity of national staff (see para. 35 below).**

31. The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimated requirements for staff costs for the period amounted to $22,241,100. **Taking into account its recommendation in**

paragraph 13 above for a reduction of $6 million in staff costs ($2.4 million of which should come under the Mission), as well as the $9.6 million underexpenditure in the current mandate period, the Committee recommends that, of the $37,932,500 (including carry-over savings of $9.6 million) requested for the Mission, $33.3 million be approved (including the $9.6 million in savings from the current mandate period).

32. The supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that estimated operational requirements for the Mission amount to $14,131,700. The estimate includes a provision of $2.5 million for construction of a centralized Mission compound to house Mission headquarters staff and other participating United Nations agencies. **The Committee requests that the impact of the construction on rental costs and other services be reflected in the next submission.**

33. Air operations account for $4,280,800 of the estimated requirements for the Mission. The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate would provide for the charter, hire and operating costs of one small passenger jet, one B-200 light aircraft and one medium passenger/cargo aircraft for the period from 1 April through 31 December 2003. The Committee recalls the concerns it expressed in its general report on peacekeeping operations of 5 April 2002 regarding the need to install an effective and adequate mission capacity to manage and monitor the use of air assets, as well as the need to have arrangements in place to ensure appropriate and timely reimbursement for air support services provided by missions to other partners in the mission area.[9] In this connection, the Committee enquired regarding the status of recruitment for the P-4 auditor's post that had been budgeted for the current period starting 1 April 2002. The Committee was informed that the Office of Internal Oversight Services was in the process of reviewing profiles and candidates and expected to appoint a resident auditor in the near future. **This is a matter of serious concern and should be accorded high priority.**

34. The Advisory Committee notes from the supplementary information provided to it that the estimate for training amounts to $831,500. **While the Committee agrees with the need for training, care should be taken to ensure that the goal of any training undertaken is to meet the specific needs of the Mission. The Committee therefore questions the need for training in such areas as critical thinking and public speaking. Furthermore, the Committee questions the justification for taking local staff out of Afghanistan to train them in Brindisi, and recommends that this issue be addressed in the context of the next budget submission.**

35. In the supplementary information, it was also stated that the training of local and national personnel was part of a larger objective to develop the capacity of national staff to take over specific functions that are at present carried out by international staff. **The Advisory Committee commends this objective and requests that, in the next estimates, the impact of this on the number of international personnel required be indicated.**

36. The supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee included a request for $300,000 for quick impact projects. In this connection, the Committee recalls the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations peace operations.[10] In paragraph 24 of that report, the following recommendation of the Panel is reproduced:

> "A small percentage of a mission's first-year budget should be made available to the representative or special representative of the Secretary-General leading the mission to fund quick impact projects in its area of operations, with the advice of the United Nations country team's resident coordinator."

In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the presence of funds and programmes of the United Nations and other partners in the area, the Advisory Committee does not see the need to continue a separate provision under the regular budget for quick impact projects in the Mission.

D. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia

37. The Advisory Committee notes from table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General that the estimates for the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia include an increase of five local level posts. No information is given in the supplementary information provided to the Committee to justify the conversion of these positions to established posts, other than the fact that these individuals have been hired as local contractors for more than two years. Furthermore, neither the functions of the posts nor the programme justifications for the conversions are given. In fact, in this estimate and in the estimates for all the other special political missions, only generic titles are provided for positions to be filled; no functions are described. The Committee has already commented on this problem in paragraphs 14 and 21 of its report of 4 March 2002,[1] yet no follow-up action has been taken to correct the weakness, except in the estimates for the United Nations Office in Burundi. **Individuals employed for these temporary missions are not expected to have career appointments. The Committee recommends against the five conversions, which would lead to more expenditure without adding support capacity to the mission.**

E. United Nations Office in Burundi

38. As indicated in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, the estimated requirements include an increase in international staff from 28 to 30 and in local staff from 23 to 32, or a total increase from 51 to 62. The Advisory Committee acknowledges the developments in this area and the potential for expansion into a larger operational mission. The Committee appreciates the details provided in the supplementary information concerning the functions of the 11 new posts. These include a P-4 post for the chief information officer/spokesman and three local level support staff for a new Information Unit, one security officer, two secretaries for the Implementation Monitoring Committee, one switchboard operator, two drivers and a cleaner. The Committee notes further that in paragraph 50 of his report to the Security Council of 18 November 2002,[11] the Secretary-General states that "three military advisers and civilian police would also be attached to UNOB in order to continue contingency planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission". **The Committee has no objection to the proposed increase in posts. However, the Committee notes that the vacancy rate assumed for international staff for 2002 was 25 per cent and that the current rate is 25.9 per cent. The estimates assume a vacancy rate of 5 per cent (see annex II to the present report). The Committee is therefore of the view that a higher vacancy factor should be applied.**

39. The estimates for other resource requirements for the mission should have included more detailed justifications. For example, the supplementary information contains a request for $384,500 for the services of six international consultants, without adequate justification as to their functions. The same can be said of the estimate for operational costs ($1,083,700). Many of the unit rates used in this and other missions appear to the Advisory Committee to be too high and, in many cases, inconsistent. For example, in the supplementary information there is a request for $27,600 for the rental of six parking spaces. A provision is made for spare parts, repairs and maintenance at $158 per vehicle per month, or $1,896 per vehicle per year. However, for the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic, the estimate is $1,540 per vehicle per year. Requirements for two facsimile machines for the Burundi Office are estimated at $4,400, while for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region the estimate for a plain paper fax machine is $1,200, plus 15 per cent for shipping and handling.

40. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the items were mission-specific and that standard costs were not used in the estimates. **The Committee requests that overall integrated procurement planning be undertaken for special political missions, with assistance from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for equipment, vehicles and other items normally eligible for bulk procurement, with a view to introducing efficiency and optimum use of resources (see also para. 17 above).**

41. As indicated in paragraph 15 above, the Advisory Committee received additional details on the information activities of the United Nations Office in Burundi. The Committee was informed that of the total estimate of $428,700, public information would amount to $153,800, confidence-building measures to $174,900 and Burundi ceasefire negotiations to $100,000. **The Committee questions the rationale for providing what appears to the Committee to be either grants or lump sum amounts to various recipients in the Government and civil society. Unless care is taken and criteria are developed for such disbursements under the regular budget of the United Nations, the United Nations risks creating far more serious public relations problems, especially among groups that would consider themselves left out of United Nations assistance. The Committee recommends that the use of resources for public information activities be reviewed with a view to ensuring that such resources are used for those activities that are strictly designed to promote the work of the United Nations in Burundi. In the meantime, the Committee recommends $328,700 for public information, a reduction of $100,000.**

42. **Taking into account its comments in paragraphs 38, 39 and 41 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate for the Office be reduced from $7,556,600 to $6.8 million.**

F. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

43. The estimate for the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, as shown in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General, reflects a decrease from $2,722,700 in 2002 to $2,586,400 in 2003.

44. As shown in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, a decrease in staffing from 28 to 27 is proposed. In addition, as indicated in paragraph 37 of the report, the upgrading of the post of administrative officer from the P-2 to the P-4 level is requested. The Advisory Committee was informed that the request resulted from a review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which concluded that the P-2 level was too low to provide adequate supervision over administrative and budgetary matters. **While the Committee agrees with this request, it observes that effective assets management and budgetary control can be achieved when the individuals have the necessary experience and training. These qualities are not necessarily related to the level of the post. For special missions, it may be easier to recruit at lower levels, provide training and ensure long retention through the rotation of staff among missions. The essential requirement is for all concerned, including heads of missions and senior individuals in the mission, to be fully aware of the need to observe staff and personnel regulations and rules and to be held accountable for any deficiencies or management lapses.**

G. United Nations Mission in Angola

45. The resource requirements for the United Nations Mission in Angola for the period up to the end of 2003 amount to $12,575,700. Of that amount, $632,900 would be met from the estimated unencumbered balance at the end of the current mandate period. Staffing of the Mission would be reduced by one D-2 post – that of the head of the predecessor mission, the United Nations Office in Angola – as the new Mission is headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the Under-Secretary-General level.

H. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic

46. The estimate for the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic amounts to $4,548,400 for 2003, as compared with the estimate of $4,628,500 for 2002. The number of posts remains at 56. The Advisory Committee welcomes the additional information provided, which describes the programme of activities of the Office and related costs. The additional information indicated that the cost of the political programme of the Office would amount to $58,000, the military and civilian programmes to $51,800, the public information programme to $110,500, the training programme to $25,400 and the human rights programme to

$161,000. The Committee recalls its comments in paragraphs 6 and 18 of its report of 4 March 2002[1] and notes that the additional information given to the Committee is not clear as regards the actual plans and targets and corresponding performance. For example, in political programmes, the same amount ($58,000) is requested, as was requested for the previous period, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General[12] and the narrative of the supplementary information provided to the Committee for 2003 is more or less the same as the narrative in that report. The same situation is true for the civilian police programme.

47. **From the information provided, it is often difficult to ascertain the basis of the request for programme resources and the achievements thus far. Nor is it much easier to ascertain the planned targets for proposed resources. For example, the statement given in the additional information provided to the Committee that "various training programmes will be conducted on a number of issues at an estimated cost of $42,300" is not very useful.**

48. **Such observations as those contained in paragraphs 46 and 47 above are valid for many of the programmes of the peace-building missions. It should be possible, in the context of country team strategies, to identify, for example, the target for training under civilian police programmes and the cost involved in accomplishing the target, to be funded from various sources, including bilateral programmes. The Committee requests that in the next estimates this issue be addressed for programmes in this and other missions.**

IV. Conclusions

49. **The recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 13, 31 and 42 above would require a total reduction of $8,989,100 in the estimate of the Secretary-General of $82,764,400 (net). Accordingly, the Committee recommends approval of an additional expenditure amount of $60,039,000 after taking into account the estimated unencumbered balance of $13,736,300 for the current mandate periods. This amount would be reflected in the first performance report for incorporation within the revised appropriations for the biennium 2002–2003.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/56/7/Add.1–11), document A/56/7/Add.8.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] ST/SGB/2000/9.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/57/5), vol. I and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.1), chap. 2, para. 198.

[5] Ibid., para. 201.

[6] S/2002/1075.

[7] S/PRST/2002/26.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/56/7/Add.1–11), document A/56/7/Add.11.

[9] See A/56/887, para. 66.

[10] A/55/502.

[11] S/2002/1259.

[12] See A/C.5/56/25, annex VII, para. 20.

Annex I

Estimated requirements of the special political missions for the biennium 2002–2003

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Budget approved/ committed	*Additional requests*	*Total budget for 2002–2003*
General Assembly-mandated missions			
Central American Peace Process	188.5	182.9	371.4
United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala	14 755.1	11 631.4	26 386.5
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Myanmar	277.9	163.9	441.8
United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (pre-UNAMA operation)	2 616.2	0	2 616.2
Subtotal	**17 837.7**	**11 978.2**	**29 815.9**
Secu[illegible] Council-mandated missions			
Uni[illegible]ations Office for Somalia	1 892.6	0	1 892.6
United Nations Office in Angola (pre-UNMA mission)	4 487.3	0	4 487.3
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan (pre-UNAMA office)	319.9	0	319.9
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa	4 043.7	0	4 043.7
Adviser to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa	1 089.9	696.0	1 785.9
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Africa	101.9	113.5	215.4
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia	1 835.2	1 860.9	3 696.1
Panel of Experts on Liberia	380.7	302.2	682.9
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	1 413.4	1 109.4	2 522.8
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau	2 722.7	2 505.8	5 228.5
United Nations Office in Burundi	6 925.8	6 270.6	13 196.4
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic	4 628.5	3 716.8	8 345.3
Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA	713.9	33.6	747.5
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	1 654.5	1 312.4	2 966.9
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon	950.4	979.3	1 929.7
United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building	2 628.6	939.7	3 568.3
United Nations Political Office in Bougainville	1 543.4	1 760.4	3 303.8
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism	2 126.0	2 621.1	4 747.1
United Nations Expert Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 323.1	1 849.7	3 172.8
Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001) and extended by resolution 1390 (2002)	2 276.8	1 899.8	4 176.6
United Nations Mission in Angola	8 022.4	11 942.8	19 965.2
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	50 546.8	28 315.0	78 861.8
Panel of Experts on Somalia	706.9	799.1	1 506.0
Subtotal	**102 334.4**	**69 028.1**	**171 362.5**
Total	**120 172.1**	**81 006.3**	**201 178.4**

Annex II

Actual vacancies and those used for the 2003 budget

(Percentage)

	As at September 2002			*Vacancies used for 2003 budget*			
	International	*Local*	*Overall*	*International*	*Local*	*Overall*	*Remarks*
Adviser to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	No staff. Special Envoy engaged on a when-actually-employed basis
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia	40.0	0.0	7.8	10.0	0.0	4.2	
Panel of Experts on Liberia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	No staff
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau	13.3	15.3	14.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	
United Nations Office in Burundi	25.9	8.7	19.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic	25.0	0.0	10.7	5.0	0.0	2.1	
Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	No budget for 2003 is included
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	33.0	0.0	18.8	10.0	5.0	7.5	
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building	20.0	14.3	16.1	15.0	5.0	8.2	
United Nations Political Office in Bougainville	25.0	0.0	20.0	15.0	0.0	9.5	
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism	12.5	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	
United Nations Expert Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001) and extended by resolution 1390 (2002)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
United Nations Mission in Angola	39.0	19.8	29.4	25.0	8.0	16.5	
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	28.9	36.7	33.6	25.0	10.0	12.4	
Panel of Experts on Somalia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Annex III

Current expert groups established by the Security Council in connection with sanctions

Expert group	*Period of mandate*	*Composition*	*Secretariat support*	*Relevant sanctions committee*
Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA	First mandate: six months, July 2000–January 2001, S/RES/1295 (2000)	5 experts (including Chairman) S/2000/677	1 Professional, 1 General Service	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola
	Second mandate: three months, February–April 2001, S/RES/1336 (2001)	5 experts (including Chairman) S/2001/91	1 Professional, 1 General Service	
	Third mandate: six months, May–October 2001, S/RES/1348 (2001)	4 experts (including Chairman) S/2001/537	1 Professional, 1 General Service	
	Fourth mandate: six months, October 2001–April 2002, S/RES/1374 (2001)	4 experts (including Chairman) S/2001/1009	1 Professional, 1 General Service	
	Fifth mandate: six months, April–October 2002, S/RES/1404 (2002)	4 experts (including Chairman) S/2002/487	1 Professional, 1 General Service	
	Sixth mandate: two months, 18 October–19 December 2002, S/RES/1439 (2002)	2 experts (including Chairman) S/2002/1204	1 Professional, 1 General Service	
Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001)	First mandate: four months, September 2001–January 2002, S/RES/1363 (2001)	5 experts (including Chairman) S/2001/887	3 Professional, 4 General Service	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan
Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution1363 (2001) and extended by resolution 1390 (2002)	Second mandate: twelve months, January 2002–January 2003, S/RES/1390 (2002)	5 experts (including Chairman) S/2002/235	3 Professional, 4 General Service	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)
Panel of Experts on Somalia	Six months: September 2002–February 2003, S/RES/1425 (2002)	3 experts, no chair S/2002/951	1 General Service, Nairobi; 1 General Service, New York	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

Annex IV

Secretariat support for the eight existing sanctions regimes

Sanctions regime	*Security Council resolution*	*Last annual report*	*Monitoring mechanism*	*Type of sanctions*
Iraq	661 (1990)	S/2002/647 (10 June 2002)	No	Comprehensive
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	748 (1992)	S/1999/1299 (31 December 1999)	No	Suspended
Somalia	751 (1992)	S/2001/1259 (26 December 2001)	Panel of Experts	Arms
Angola (UNITA)	864 (1993)	S/2002/243 (7 March 2002)	Yes	Arms, petroleum, air traffic, travel, aviation, representation, financial and diamonds
Rwanda (except the Government)	918 (1994)	S/2002/49 (14 January 2002)	No	Arms
Sierra Leone (Revolutionary United Front)	1132 (1997)	S/2002/50 (14 January 2002)	Prior Panel of Experts	Arms, travel and diamonds
Taliban/al-Qa'idah	1267 (1999)	S/2002/101 (5 February 2002)	Yes	Arms, travel and financial
Liberia	1343 (2001)	S/2002/83 (18 January 2002)	Prior Panel of experts	Arms, diamonds and travel

Each Sanctions Committee is supported by a secretary (P-5/P-4 level), a political affairs officer (P-3/P-4 level) and one General Service staff member. Some of the staff support more than one Committee.

Total staffing:

Professional and above: 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2	8
General Service	9
Total	17

Document A/57/7/Add.18

Nineteenth report

Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1

[2 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1[1] on future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/C.5/57/24).

2. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the statement, under operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation made by the Working Group on the future operations of the Institute and would request the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Working Group, contained in paragraph 57 of its report (A/57/330). They are also enumerated in paragraph 2 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that paragraphs 3 to 5 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General contain the background elements regarding the financial situation of the Institute in the recent past, along with a summary of the decisions of the Assembly in this regard. These include the one-time subvention of 800,000 United States dollars for 2001 granted by the Assembly in its decision 55/457 of 23 December 2000, pending receipt of voluntary contributions, in view of the difficult financial situation the Institute was undergoing at the time; the provision in December 2001 of an amount of $650,000, retained in the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 out of the original $800,000, in order to ensure the continuation of the operations of the Institute in 2002; and the decision by the Assembly, in its resolution 56/125 of 19 December 2001, to establish a working group on the future operations of the Institute.

4. Paragraph 7 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General reports on the current financial situation of the Institute and indicates that while voluntary contributions amounted to $312,396 in 2001, only $93,707 had been received as at 18 November 2002.

5. In paragraph 8 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, he indicates that taking into account the provisions of paragraph 57 of the report of the Working Group, as endorsed in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, the total resources required would amount to $1,809,500 annually ($3,619,000 on a biennial basis). According to paragraphs 6 and 8 of the statement, the annual amount would include the annual provision of $500,000 from the regular budget to finance the core activities of the Institute or the four current Professional posts (1 D-2, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2/1). The remaining amount of $1,309,500, to be provided from unidentified voluntary contributions, would cover the costs associated with the post of the new Deputy Director, the four current General Service posts and other supporting operating expenses enumerated in paragraph 8 of the statement.

6. **In the circumstances, should the General Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, additional requirements of $500,000 would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[2] The provision, representing a potential charge against the contingency fund, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be presented to the Fifth Committee at the end of the current session.**

7. **In order to ensure the viability of the Institute, the Advisory Committee trusts that the $1,309,500 in additional contributions will be realized. The Committee notes that under operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Working Group to submit a preliminary report on the follow-up to the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session and a final report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 18 December 2002 as resolution 57/175.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.19

Twentieth report

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.7

[2 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.7[1] on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (A/C.5/57/26).

2. As indicated in paragraphs 2 and 22 to 27 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, should the General Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.7, there would be financial implications for the regular budget in the biennium 2002–2003 in an amount of up to 412,800 United States dollars, for the establishment of a secretariat in 2003 for the Forum at a cost of $382,000 (initially three posts – see para. 3 below) and the convening of a three-day pre-sessional meeting from 7 to 9 May 2003 at a cost of $30,800 for the daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Forum.

3. The work of the proposed secretariat for the Forum is outlined in paragraph 10 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General. The Forum secretariat would include six posts, that is four posts at the Professional level (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) and two General Service posts. The functions of these six posts are described in paragraph 11 of the statement. The Advisory Committee notes that, for the reasons stated in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the statement, it is proposed that the secretariat be established in two stages. In the first stage, three posts (1 D-1, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service) would be established as at 1 January 2003 and, in a second stage, the remaining three posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service) would be established in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 10, 12 and 17 (*b*) of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General that with the establishment of the Forum, the scope and nature of the activities related to indigenous issues to be carried out by the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system would expand beyond the area of human rights. Up to now, within the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has carried out activities related to indigenous people, including coordination. The Office has been designated as the lead agency for preparations for the Forum and will utilize its substantive expertise on indigenous issues and its experience in servicing the first session of the Forum. The Committee notes, however, that in paragraph 4 (*a*) of the statement, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to appoint a secretariat unit within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to assist the Forum in carrying out its mandate. **The Committee recommends that the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the furtherance of objectives, activities and programmes of the United Nations on indigenous matters be clarified, with a view to establishing a clear delineation of responsibilities, avoiding duplication of efforts and optimizing the use of resources.**

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the three posts requested for the secretariat of the Forum for the biennium 2002–2003 in the first stage (1 D-1, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service). However, with regard to the posts proposed for the second stage (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider such proposals as the Secretary-General may submit in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, taking into account the need to clarify the**

role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to indigenous issues, as indicated above.

6. **In the light of the recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.7, there would be financial implications arising of up to $412,800 for the regular budget in the biennium 2002–2003. The provision, representing a potential charge against the contingency fund, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be presented to the Fifth Committee at the end of the current session.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 18 December 2002 as resolution 57/191.

Document A/57/7/Add.20

Twenty-first report

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20

[6 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20,[1] entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development" (A/C.5/57/28). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 1 and 9 to 13 of the statement, the Secretary-General requests the continuation in 2003 of provision for a post of political affairs officer (at the P-4 level) and one General Service post to continue to provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General in post-conflict peace-building in Central America. The political affairs officer would continue to monitor the Guatemala peace process, providing support to the activities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala and to the verification and good offices functions carried out by the United Nations in respect of the peace-building process in El Salvador. The political affairs officer would also continue to follow developments in the Central America region as a whole.

3. The estimated costs related to the salaries and common staff costs of these two staff members (1 P-4 and 1 General Service) for the one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2003 amount to 202,800 United States dollars net ($244,200 gross). After taking into account the fact that, out of $188,500 appropriated for 2002 for expenditures relating to those staff members, an estimated $19,900 is expected to remain unencumbered at the end of 2002, the additional requirements for the two staff members for 2003 amount to $182,900 net ($224,300 gross) (ibid., para. 14).

4. **Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 16 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/57/L.20, an additional appropriation of $182,900 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[2] Furthermore, an amount of $41,400 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 16 December 2002 as resolution 57/160.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.21

Twenty-second report

United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1

[6 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1[1] on the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (A/C.5/57/30). During its consideration of the item, the Advisory Committee met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guatemala and other representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the current phase of operation of the Mission is to continue throughout 2003 in support of consolidating the progress achieved under the peace agreements. During 2002, the Mission has continued to carry out its mandate to verify compliance with the peace agreements, provide technical assistance, offer good offices and inform the public about its activities and the results of the verification. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1, thus extending the mandate of the Mission until 31 December 2003, the Mission would continue to carry out the activities as described in the report of the Secretary-General dated 1 November 2002 (A/57/584), in which the Secretary-General recommends a renewal of the mandate of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003.

3. The structure of the Mission is discussed in paragraphs 6 to 16 of the statement (A/C.5/57/30). The Mission would continue to carry out its mandate in 2003 at a reduced level as compared with 2002. The verification of the peace agreements would continue to be organized around four main areas: human rights, indigenous rights, the strengthening of civilian power, and economic policy and rural development (ibid., para. 12). The Advisory Committee was informed that the budget proposal for 2003 was designed to achieve two fundamental goals. The first was to continue the agreed-upon pattern of budget reductions leading towards closure that began in previous years. The second was to permit the Mission to continue to fulfil its traditional mandate while also engaging in a transition programme that would help to prepare other actors to carry out the peace agenda after the Mission has left. The Committee was informed that this transition programme emphasized cooperation with national institutions and also included an important role for agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. The Committee was informed that the current planning assumed that the Mission would terminate its mandate at the end of 2003. The Committee notes that the Government of Guatemala has requested an extension of the mandate of the Mission into 2004 (see A/57/584, para. 31). The Committee also notes the provisions of paragraphs 24 and 25 of draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1. **In this connection, and bearing in mind the comments above, the Committee welcomes the information given to it that the Mission would begin to plan for eventual liquidation.**

4. As shown in annex I.A to the statement (A/C.5/57/30), estimated requirements of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003 amount to 11,602,900 United States dollars net ($12,961,900 gross), representing a reduction in provisions for 2003 of $3,152,200 net or about 21 per cent as compared with 2002 appropriations. The Advisory Committee notes from annex V to the statement that expenditure for the one-year period ending 31 December 2002 is estimated at $14,783,600, resulting in an estimated deficit of $28,500, as compared with $14,755,100 appropriated for the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2002.

5. As shown in annex I.A to the statement, total civilian personnel costs amount to $9,606,300 for 2003, as compared with $11,868,600 appropriated for 2002. A total of 233 posts are proposed for the Mission for 2003, comprising 53 international staff (41 Professional, 10 General Service and 2 Field Service), 6 national officers, 118 other local-level staff and 56 United Nations Volunteers. As compared with the staffing table approved for 2002, there is a proposed reduction of 38 posts, comprising a decrease of 16 international posts (7 Professional, 7 General Service and 2 Field Service), 16 local-level posts and 7 United Nations Volunteers, partially offset by the addition of one new national officer (ibid., para. 17 and annex I.B). Vacancy factors of 17.5 and 3 per cent for international and local staff, respectively, have been used in estimating the staff costs.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that the bulk of the reduction in personnel for 2003 would come from cuts in substantive and administrative personnel in the Guatemala City headquarters. Military observers would be discontinued and the number of police observers would be reduced from ten in 2002 to six in 2003. One police observer would remain in each regional office to participate in the verification of human rights cases. Annex IV to the statement shows the proposed staffing by organizational unit for the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the regional office structure would remain intact in 2003. It is expected that the most important transition work will be done in the field. The increased transition activities, aimed at strengthening local actors such as the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman and the departmental development councils, will dictate more selective verification work in the field. The Committee was also informed that the largest field office, in Guatemala City, had been moved out of headquarters and into a more central neighbourhood, facilitating access by the population and contact with transition partners. The Committee was informed that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had expressed interest in merging efforts to verify indigenous rights and is considering the opening of an office with a broad human rights mandate after the Mission leaves. Plans are also being developed to allow monitoring and reporting on socio-economic issues to be increasingly assumed by programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. **The Committee stresses the importance of such participation in the transition period and the phasing out of the Mission.**

8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 14 of the statement that a new Mission History and Lessons Learned Unit would be established to ensure that the experience of the Mission would be adequately documented and analysed. The Committee was informed that with the creation of the unit, the Mission would be making a serious effort to document its nearly decade-long experience in Guatemala and develop lessons learned for the benefit of Guatemalan audiences and future United Nations peacekeeping operations. **The Committee trusts that the work of the unit will be completed within a one-year period, as envisaged, and calls for very close cooperation between this unit and the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.**

9. The estimated operational costs for the Mission amount to $1,920,300 for 2003, as compared with $2,432,200 appropriated for 2002, and estimates for other programmes amount to $257,000 for 2003, as compared with $314,800 appropriated for 2002 (see A/C.5/57/30, annex I.A). The Advisory Committee notes that the requirements for transport operations are estimated at a reduced level (ibid., annex I.C, para. 10). The Committee was informed that the Mission would maintain a vehicle fleet of 98 vehicles in 2003, as compared with 128 vehicles in 2002.

10. The Advisory Committee notes the information contained in annex III to the statement on the use of extrabudgetary resources and the Trust Fund for the Guatemala Peace Process. Allocations from the Trust Fund for various activities in support of the mandate of the Mission amount to $1.2 million. For 2003, it is anticipated that, based on the contributions already

approved or under negotiation with donors, an estimated amount of $682,700 would be made available.

11. **The Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1, additional appropriations would be required for the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[2] in the amount of $11,631,400 under section 3, Political affairs, and an amount of $1,359,000 under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by the corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 16 December 2002 as resolution 57/161.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.22

Twenty-third report

Khmer Rouge trials

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.70

[6 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.70[1] on Khmer Rouge trials (A/C.5/57/29).

2. As indicated in paragraphs 3 and 5 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, under the terms of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, if necessary, "to send a team of experts to Cambodia as may be required" for the preparation of his report on implementation of the resolution. The cost of sending a team of experts to Cambodia for a two-week period in January 2003 is estimated at 44,800 United States dollars for travel and daily subsistence allowance for the members of the team, with substantive support to be provided by the Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs.

3. The Advisory Committee notes the indication in paragraph 4 of the statement that no provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 for the activities proposed in the draft resolution and that therefore, should the General Assembly decided to adopt the draft resolution, additional resources would be required under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[2]

4. **Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee recommends that, at this stage, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.70, the additional requirement of $44,800 be met from within existing resources under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003. Any requirement for an additional appropriation could be indicated in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 18 December 2002 as resolution 57/228, which became resolution 57/228 A following the adoption of resolution 57/228 B on 13 May 2003.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.23

Twenty-fourth report

The situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48

[6 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48[1] on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/57/27).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar to submit additional reports to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the progress of those discussions and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the request are described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the statement. Paragraphs 6 and 7 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates the costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through his Special Envoy for Myanmar at 307,400 United States dollars net ($372,600 gross) for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2003. Information is provided in the annex to the statement, including the provision for salary for the Special Envoy at the rate applicable to individuals engaged on a when-actually-employed basis and for the salaries and common staff costs of two staff (1 Political Affairs Officer at the P-3 level and 1 local staff member), who would provide support to the Special Envoy.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the two posts, requested for the first time, are made necessary by the increased activity envisaged by the Special Envoy for 2003 to build upon the positive momentum generated in the past several months in facilitating the dialogue among interested parties in Myanmar towards national reconciliation. Moreover, in view of the increasing frequency of the Special Envoy's consultation missions to Yangon, the United Nations Development Programme office, which was previously involved in that regard, finds it increasingly more difficult to provide the level of support required.

5. The Advisory Committee further notes from paragraph 7 of the statement that an unencumbered balance of $143,500 is expected to remain from the appropriation of $277,900 for 2002. Taking that balance into account, the additional requirements would therefore amount to $163,900 net ($229,100 gross).

6. **Bearing in mind paragraph 9 of the statement of the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, an additional appropriation of $163,900 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.[2] Furthermore, an appropriation of $65,200 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 18 December 2002 as resolution 57/231.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Document A/57/7/Add.24

Twenty-fifth report

Ensuring effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62

[11 December 2002]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62[1] on ensuring effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.5/57/32).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62, the General Assembly would, inter alia: (*a*) request the Secretary-General to establish appropriate secretariat support arrangements along the lines of those described in paragraph 48 of his report on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/57/344); (*b*) decide that the functions of the new secretariat support would be similar to those outlined in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (also indicated in para. 2 (*b*) of the statement); (*c*) request the Secretary-General to accord priority to the tasks enumerated in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution (see also para. 2 (*c*) of the statement); and (*d*) decide to implement the provisions of the draft resolution by utilizing existing resources, starting at the beginning of 2003.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3 of the statement that the related activities to be carried out pertain to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 and to section 9, Economic and social affairs, section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and section 27, Management and central support services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003.

4. The functions called for in draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62 would be carried out by a new Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the statement. Moreover, according to paragraph 6 of the statement, in the interest of optimizing the use of existing resources, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General "to carry out the programme of work envisaged under the draft resolution through consolidation of finance aspects of development and the redeployment of related staff resources under relevant subprogrammes in the newly established Financing for Development Office for the duration of the biennium 2002–2003". The proposed staff resources of the new office would consist of 19 posts (14 Professional and 5 General Service). Out of this proposed total, 13 regular budget posts would be redeployed from within the Department, including 10 Professional (2 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2) and 3 General Service posts, in addition to which 6 new posts would be required (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 2 General Service).

5. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that for the biennium 2002–2003, the Secretary-General is only requesting additional resources related to the new D-2 level post for the head of the new Financing for Development Office, since other post and non-post resources would be met through ad hoc interim measures and residual extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in paragraph 7 of the statement. However, as indicated in paragraph 8 of the statement, such additional resources would be requested in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005.

6. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposal that an official at the D-2 level head the Financing for Development Office and recommends that the Secretary-General proceed with the necessary action to fill the position at this level. However, in addition to the post under consideration, there are currently 10 posts at the D-2 level in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In this connection, the Committee will revert to this matter in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, taking into account the review referred to in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004–2005 (A/57/85), including information provided to the Committee with respect to the restructuring of the Department.**

7. **The Fifth Committee may therefore wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62, additional expenditures of $203,200 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003. The provision, representing a potential charge against the contingency fund, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be presented to the Fifth Committee at the end of the current session.**

Notes

[1] The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on 20 December 2002 as resolution 57/273.

Document A/57/7/Add.25

Twenty-sixth report

Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

[11 March 2003]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was informed that the current salaries of the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are as follows:

	Gross salary	*Net salary*	*Post adjustment*	*Net remuneration*
	(United States dollars)			
Secretary-General	269 194	177 100	81 997	259 097
Administrator of UNDP	213 892	142 813	66 122	208 935

2. The Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP also receive representation allowances of $25,000 and $10,000, respectively.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the last comprehensive review of the salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP was undertaken in 1990 during the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Assembly, in its resolution 45/251 of 21 December 1990, concurred with the recommendations made by the Committee in its report of 11 December 1990.[1] In its resolution 52/225 of 4 February 1998, the Assembly also approved the recommendations of the Committee in its report of 18 December 1997 on the salary and retirement allowances of the Secretary-General and the salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP[2] resulting from the changes approved in Assembly resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996 in relation to the salaries of staff in the Professional and higher categories.

4. The Advisory Committee also notes that, under the terms of resolution 45/251, the retirement allowance of the Secretary-General is set at an amount equivalent to 50 per cent of the recommended net remuneration (net base salary plus post adjustment) and that it is adjusted by the application of the same procedure and percentage used for adjusting the scale of pensionable remuneration for staff in the Professional and higher categories. The Committee was informed that the retirement benefit of the Secretary-General currently amounts to $129,548.

5. With regard to the pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP, the Committee recalls that it is revised between comprehensive reviews by application of the same adjustment procedure and percentage increase applied to the scale of pensionable remuneration in effect for staff in the Professional and higher categories. The pensionable remuneration of the Professional and higher categories of staff was last revised effective 1 November 2002, as is routinely done whenever there is an adjustment in the net remuneration amounts (base salary plus post adjustment) of staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York. The Committee was informed that the pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP currently amounts to $251,827.

6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002, approved differentiated salary increases in the salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories, resulting from the range of salaries falling below the desired midpoint of 115 within the 110 to 120

band for certain categories and/or grades. Effective 1 January 2003, the increases approved were as follows: 1.3 per cent for P-4, 2.6 per cent for P-5, 9.1 per cent for D-1 and 6.3 per cent for D-2 and above.

7. Accordingly, if the approved increase of 6.3 per cent were applied to the net remuneration of the Secretary-General and that of the Administrator of UNDP, effective 1 January 2003, their salaries would be as follows:

	Gross salary	*Net salary*	*Post adjustment*	*Net remuneration*
		(United States dollars)		
Secretary-General	287 189	188 257	87 163	275 420
Administrator of UNDP	228 403	151 810	70 288	222 098

8. On this basis, and as a result of the increase in pensionable remuneration for staff in the Professional and higher categories, effective 1 January 2003, promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission, the retirement benefit of the Secretary-General should increase from $129,548 to $137,710, effective as of the same date. In addition, the pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP should increase from $251,827 to $267,692 as of the same date.

9. Taking into account the observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the revised salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and the revised salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of UNDP be made, effective 1 January 2003.

10. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that, since the salary of the Administrator of UNDP moves in tandem with the salary scale of staff in the Professional and higher categories, including in those cases when a change in the scale results from consolidating post adjustment points into base/floor salary scales, this leads to more frequent changes than was the case before the revised approved methodology. **In order to alleviate the need for frequent changes in annex I to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, the Committee proposes to amend the text of the annex by deleting that last sentence in paragraph 1, which currently indicates the exact gross salary figure for the Administrator. This would avoid recurrent inconsistencies between the amount specified in the text and the amount resulting from the application of the revised methodology.**

11. The financial implications of the recommendations made in the preceding paragraphs are as follows:

(*a*) **Gross salary.** The change in the gross salary of the Secretary-General would result in an increase of expenditure of staff assessment under section 32, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003[3] estimated at $18,000, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

(*b*) **Net salary.** Should the total net salary of the Secretary-General (net base salary plus post adjustment) be increased, there would be an increase in expenditure under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 estimated at $16,400;

(*c*) **Retirement allowance.** The consequential increases in the maximum retirement allowance for the three former Secretaries-General would result in a total additional cost under section 30, Special expenses, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003, estimated at $24,900 at the rate of $8,300 per former Secretary-General for 2003.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that, should the General Assembly approve the proposals outlined above, the Secretariat would reflect the changes involved in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2002–2003.

13. A draft resolution embodying the Advisory Committee's recommendations is annexed to the present report.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/45/7 and Add.1–14), document A/45/7/Add.12.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/52/7/Add.1–10), document A/52/7/Add.8.

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Add.2).

Annex

Draft resolution[a]

Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Concurs* with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 9 of its report;

2. *Also concurs* with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee concerning the salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme contained in paragraph 9 of its report;

3. *Approves* the amendment to paragraph 1 of annex I to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations with effect from 1 January 2003, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Amendment to paragraph 1 of annex I to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

In paragraph 1, the last sentence, "With effect from 1 January 1998, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme shall receive a gross salary of 175,344 United States dollars per annum", should be deleted.

Notes

[a] See resolution 57/310 of 18 June 2003.

Document A/57/7/Add.26

Twenty-seventh report

Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

[16 May 2003]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General outlining the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) (A/57/761). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the budget outline is presented in accordance with the procedure outlined and recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report on administrative arrangements for ITC,[1] which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998. The arrangements called for ITC, in May of the year preceding the United Nations financial period, to submit simultaneously to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, and to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for its approval, a budget outline for the first year of activities for the coming biennium with a projection of requirements for the second year. The requirements would be presented in Swiss francs in order to conform to the WTO budget process.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the requirements of ITC are estimated at SwF 33,126,300 for 2004 and that the preliminary estimate for 2005 is SwF 33,523,500 (ibid., para. 13). The proposed outline represents an increase of 5.4 per cent in real terms (ibid., paras. 10 and 11).

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that in considering the report of the Secretary-General on experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements mentioned in paragraph 2 above (A/C.5/57/14), which was submitted in response to a request of the Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 55/483 of 14 June 2001, it recommended approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with ITC and WTO for a joint review of the arrangements (see document A/57/7/Add.10 above, para. 6). The Assembly endorsed this proposal in its decision 57/572 of 20 December 2002. The Committee was informed, however, that the review had not yet taken place and notes, as indicated in paragraph 15 of the outline document (A/57/761), that pending the outcome of such a review, the current administrative arrangements would continue to apply.

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the resources proposed in the ITC budget outline**. The Advisory Committee recalls that the detailed proposed programme budget of ITC for the biennium 2004–2005 will be submitted to the Assembly and the General Council of WTO in the autumn of 2003 on the basis of decisions taken on the outline by the Assembly and the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, as endorsed by the Assembly in its decision 53/411 B.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/53/7 and Add.1–15), document A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11.

Document A/57/7/Add.27

Twenty-eighth report

Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

[19 May 2003]
[Original: English]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/57/797). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. In the report, the Secretary-General stated that an amount of 481,900 United States dollars was available, which was sufficient to maintain the operations of the Institute, including the payment of salaries of eight staff members, until the end of November 2003 (ibid., para. 6). **Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and request him to report further to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the financial situation of the Institute.**

Annex

Reports presented orally by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at meetings of the Fifth Committee during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

Contents

	Paragraphs
Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa – Videoconferencing at the United Nations	1
Proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations	2
Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates	3
Standards of accommodation for air travel	4

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

Videoconferencing at the United Nations

1. At the 7th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/57/322). With regard to the report on videoconferencing at the United Nations (A/57/339 and Corr.1), the Advisory Committee would make its comments, where appropriate, after considering the report of the Secretary-General on the Organization's information technology strategy. (See A/C.5/57/SR.7, para. 60.)

Proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations

2. At the 26th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that the Advisory Committee had reviewed the proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations (A/57/396) and had had an exchange of views thereon with the Controller. The Advisory Committee's concerns had been taken into account in the proposed revised Financial Regulations and were reflected in the report before the Fifth Committee. It had not, therefore, been necessary to issue a separate report of Advisory Committee. The new Financial Rules, which had been submitted to the Advisory Committee (ibid., para. 6), would be promulgated by the Secretary-General following the adoption by the General Assembly of the revised Financial Regulations. (See A/C.5/57/SR.26. para. 44.)

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

3. At the 38th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, introducing the oral report of the Advisory Committee concerning the Secretary-General's report entitled "Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates" (A/C.5/57/33), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposal contained in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report for the appropriation of the amount of $1,490,200 from the contingency fund. Should the General Assembly proceed on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, it should note that an amount of $31,200 would remain in the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/57/SR.38, para. 16.)

Standards of accommodation for air travel

4. At the 39th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that the Advisory Committee had reviewed the Secretary-General's report on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/57/485) and had decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of it, subject to such other guidelines that the Assembly might wish to provide. (See A/C.5/57/SR.39, para. 76.)

---

03 24071 (E)